## Look At ....





#### Names Associated with Cutworms

Three species of cutworms are pests on golf course turf -

- Black Cutworm, Agrotis ipsilon (Hufnagel)
- Bronzed Cutworm

Cutworms are found throughout North America.

The Black Cutworm is the species most likely to damage turf.

### **Susceptible Species and Likely Locations**

Cutworms feed on many plant species.

The Black Cutworm has many weed and crop hosts.

It is a common problem on creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass PUT-TING GREENS of golf courses, which can tolerate very little feeding injury.

damage to be considered a problem there.

This species rarely causes damage to residential home lawns.

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### Identification — Larva

Larvae are HAIRLESS CATERPILLARS with MARKINGS on the head and body.

The upper half of the body is a DARKER GRAY than the lower half.

They have BLACK DOTS along both sides of their body.

length of 3.5 to 5.0 centimetres (1.4 to 2.0-inches).

Most cutworms CURL UP IN A COIL WHEN DISTURBED.

See above photo.

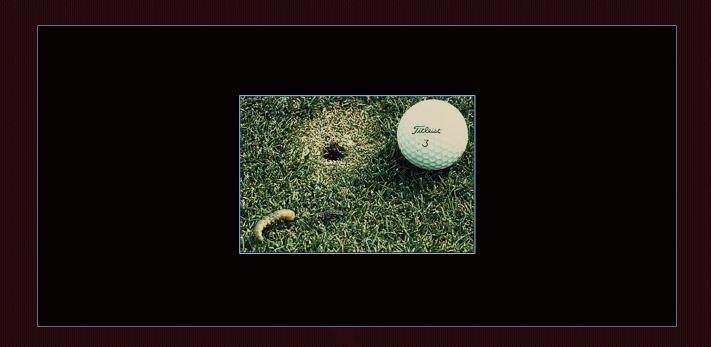
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### Identification - Adult

The adult moth is GRAY with BLACK MARKINGS ON ITS WINGS.





### Damage

The young cutworm feeds on plant material without cutting off the stems or leaves, but later becomes a true cutworm when it begins to CUT OFF FOLI-AGE and carry it back to its burrow.

Black Cutworms dig burrows in the thatch or soil of a golf course PUTTING GREEN — they EMERGE AT NIGHT to feed on the roots and shoots of grass

Their feeding damage RESEMBLES BALL MARKS on golf course greens round or depressed spots of dead turf.

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### **Aeration Holes**

The cutworm caterpillars often USE AERATION HOLES FOR BURROWS, but aerated greens DO NOT have more cutworm damage than greens that are not aerated.

Cutworms simply OCCUPY THE AERATION HOLES when they are present on a green instead of making their own burrows.

See above photo.





### Life Cycle

Every year, the adult moths MIGRATE NORTHWARD and arrive in Michigan in EARLY TO MID-JUNE.

They can complete ONE TO THREE GENERATIONS PER SEASON in Michigan.

The female LAYS EGGS SINGLY ON THE TIPS OF GRASS BLADES.



### Life Cycle (continued)

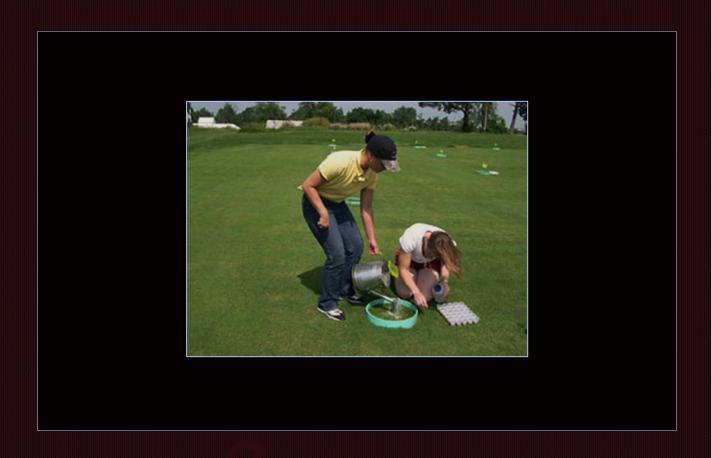
One female can lay 300 to 2,000 eggs over a series of several days.

As the caterpillars increase in size, they BURROW INTO THE TURF, and MOVE TO AND FROM THESE HOLES AT NIGHT TO FEED ON THE GRASS.

Moths may stay in the local area or migrate to other locations.



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### **Monitoring**

A SOAP SOLUTION (1/2-ounce of liquid dish soap per 3 gallons of water) applied as a drench to the green during the day will flush the caterpillars from their burrows.



#### **Threshold**

If THREE TO EIGHT CUTWORMS per square yard are found, a pest control products application may be needed.

#### **Chemical Control**

A 6-METRE (20-FOOT BORDER) AROUND THE PUTTING GREEN should be treated because most of the cutworms found on the green come from the

ment, if needed, will protect turfgrass against significant damage by Black Cutworms.

#### **Preventive Practices**

DAILY MOWING OF PUTTING GREENS removes 75 to 97 per cent of the cutthe greens mower can survive and hatch and grass clippings.

Therefore, the CLIPPINGS MUST BE DISPOSED OF 90 metres (100 yards) or metres or 30 feet per night).

Also, MOWING EARLY (before 5:30 a.m.) ONE MORNING EACH WEEK will

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A LOOK AT, and its various incarnations, is the brainchild of William H. Gathercole and his entourage. Mr. Gathercole is a principal founder of the Modern Professional Lawn Care Industry in both Ontario and Quebec. He holds a degree in Horticulture from the University of Guelph, and another pure and applied science degree from McGill University. He has worked in virtually all aspects of the Green Space Industry, including golf, professional lawn care, and distribution. Mr. Gathercole has supervised, consulted, programmed, and/or overseen the successful execution of hundreds of thousands of management operations in the urban landscape. He has trained, instructed, and advised thousands of turf

managers and technicians. Mr. Gathercole has also been an agricultural agronomist. Mr. Gathercole is personally credited for crafting the Exception Status that has allowed the Golf Industry to avoid being subjected to the PROHIBITION-TERRORISM policies of pest control products. He is also the creator of the signs that are now used for posting after application.

Mr. Gathercole is now retired, although his name continues to appear as the founder of A

