

## Chafer Beetle



Is this your lawn?

Patches of dead, spongy grass with areas dug up by crows and raccoons are signs that your lawn may have a chafer beetle infestation.

## What is Chafer Beetle?

An invasive turf pest, The European Chafer Beetle was first discovered in the Lower Mainland in 2001 and has continued to spread into surrounding communities, including Surrey.

Living most of its life in the soil, the beetle's wormlike larvae do the most damage by feeding heavily on grass roots, creating visible patches of dead and dying turf. Natural predators such as raccoons and crows help reduce their population, but their digging for the larvae can leave quite a mess.



Here's what you can do to minimize their spread and impact on your lawn:

**REDUCE** their interest in your lawn

A healthy lawn with dense roots is of no interest to Chafer Beetles. Follow these steps to keep your lawn thick and healthy:

- Aerate regularly
- Top dress with compost
- Over-seed
- Water Regularly

Slightly longer grass can also deter beetles, so reduce your mowing to once a week and raise the blade height.

## REMOVE the larvae through safe and effective measures

- Raccoons and crows digging up your lawn are actually helping by removing many of the beetle larvae. Rake to remove any pulled up sections, and add a top layer of compost and grass seed in the spring to help a healthier lawn return.
- For a target method of control, [nematodes](#) can be easily applied to your lawn during July.

## RETHINK your ground cover options

- Imagine having a ground cover that remains green year round, can be drought resistant and requires little or no mowing?
- Creeping thyme and micro clover are a sampling of many beautiful lawn alternatives available.

- See more at: <http://www.surrey.ca/city-services/19005.aspx#sthash.kJczH27Y.dpuf>