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## Chaffer beetle pest of lawns by javed bhat

What control options are available? 1. Cultural Control Maintaining a healthy lawn is first line of defense against grubs. Healthy, vigorously growing lawns can tolerate more grub feeding, because they generally have more extensive root system. Groundcovers can be chosen to be aesthetically pleasing year-round and to require minimal maintenance. Dutch White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) is one example of a lowgrowing plant that will form a green, durable ground cover that is easy to maintain. It also produces tiny white or pale pink flowers that may attract bees and other beneficial insects to your yard. 2. Physical/Barrier Controls Raise your mowing height to 6 to 9cm (2.5 to 3 in), since beetles prefer laying eggs on closely mowed lawns. Higher grass height will also help to protect the soil surface from water loss during the summer, and encourage deeper root growth. 3. Chemical Control Chemical insecticides are also available however these products are not appropriate for use in the late fall or spring. Before you purchase a chemical insecticide remember that many insecticides are harmful to beneficial insects (such as bees), harmful to aquatic organisms, and have longer-term effects in the soil or groundwater. Chemical treatments should only be considered as a last resort. The healthy lawn care practices, alternative ground covers, and biological treatments be considered as the preferred approach. use of Remay cloth, plastic sheeting, or landscape fabric to cover your lawns before dusk (approximately 9pm) in June and July when the adult beetles are most active. A cover may prevent mated females from laying eggs in your turf and repeating the cycle. (Note that some covers may need removal each morning). 4. Biological Control A recent study commissioned by the Western Canada Turfgrass Association, the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association, (2005), revealed that biological treatments could be very effective at controlling the European chafer population, when used in combination with healthy lawn care practices. According to the study, the most effective biological control measure was the natively-occurring nematode (or microscopic roundworm) *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*. The *H. bacteriophora* nematode is a "cruiser" species that actively infects and kills white grubs, such as the European chafer grubs. The 2005 study revealed that *H. bacteriophora*, when used at a rate of up to 3 billion nematodes per acre, can provide significant control of young (1st instar) European chafer grubs in the ground.

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