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Chafer beetles outbreak causes torn up lawn at Vancouver's City Hall

By Justin McElroy Web Producer Global News



WATCH: Lawns across Metro Vancouver paid the price for the hot summer. Drought made the chafer beetle problem worse, and now the grass at Vancouver City Hall has become a victim. Nadia Stewart went to take a look today, to find out what - if anything - will be done about it.

Drought conditions exacerbated Vancouver's chafer beetle problem this summer, says the city's park board chairman.

"We had a perfect storm this summer. Normally we would apply the nematodes...but **you need water** to do that, and this year we couldn't water because there was the [water restrictions](#)," says John Coupar.

Nematodes are tiny worms that are up to **90 per cent effective** in combating the invasive beetles if applied correctly and at the right time.

“We fell behind, and we’re starting to see it now all across the city. I’m sure people are seeing it in their own back yards as well.”

Coupar made his comments outside City Hall, which has been hit particularly hard by the European beetle.

The damage comes in two different ways. The beetles eat the roots of the grass, while the sheer number of them bring attention to birds and other animals who tear up the ground trying to get them.

The outbreak was first detected in New Westminster in 2001, but outbreaks have steadily increased in the Metro Vancouver area [over the past decade](#).

“We’ve had this problem going back 10 years starting in the city, so it’s not a new problem. Our staff do a really good job,” says Coupar.

“When there is damage, when you pat the soil down or compact it, sometimes the roots will retake and you’ll get a reasonable result, and then you can overseed in the late fall and the spring.”

Coupar says \$200,000 was earmarked in this year’s budget to deal with the problem in Vancouver parks, and that staff will provide recommendations on how to prevent an outbreak next year.

But for now, the lawn at 12th and Cambie is torn up.

“We have to follow the rules like everyone else, and when you can’t water lawns, you can’t water lawns,” he says.

“You see an area that was beautiful green space or lawn and it’s pretty torn up. When you see that and you’re involved with parks, you don’t feel good about that.”





NORAHG RESPONDS ABOUT EUROPEAN CHAFER INSECTS — GREEN ALTERNATIVES LIKE NEMATODES WILL NOT WORK AGAINST EUROPEAN CHAFER GRUBS IN METRO VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA (BC) !

Get used to destroyed and ravaged lawns ! With arbitrary pesticide bans, such as the one recklessly imposed in BC municipalities like Burnaby, New Westminster, Metro Vancouver, and Port Moody, green spaces invariably become CHAFER-INFESTED AND DANGEROUS GARBAGE DUMPS.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> Residents of in these municipalities like had better get used to living with GARBAGE DUMP GREEN SPACE, since it is IMPOSSIBLE to adequately control damaging pests, like European Chafer, without the use of conventional insect control products. Recommending entomo-pathogenic nematodes for controlling damaging insects of turf is mis-guided and wrong ! It would be better to do nothing rather than use nematodes. On the other hand, conventional pest control products effectively and safely control insect pests. In fact, conventional insect control products, such as Merit (imidacloprid), are deemed safer than entomo-pathogenic nematodes.

In municipalities like Burnaby, New Westminster, Metro Vancouver, and Port Moody, home-owners have NO OTHER OPTION THAN RE-SODDING their lawns, over and over and over again. If these municipalities truly want to save home-owner lawns from the European Chafer, then they should have their local pesticide bans RESCINDED. Across North America, municipal officials are thinking twice about prohibition by looking at the experience of those jurisdictions that have suffered the hardship and stunningly exorbitant costs of this #@!!% nonsense ! <http://wp.me/p1jq40-5x1>
<http://wp.me/P1jq40-43V> For the whole truth about NEMATODES and SOD INDUSTRY, go to the following web-pages ... <http://wp.me/P1jq40-5ai> & <http://wp.me/P1jq40-6V4>

In 1940, in the State of New York, the European Chafer was officially identified as a turfgrass pest. It was accidentally introduced from the Orient and Europe. Forty years later, in 1980, it reached the Niagara Peninsula in South-Western Ontario. Its rampage continued across the Greater Toronto Area throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In 1997, William H Gathercole, one of the foremost turfgrass experts in the nation, first reported its spread to Montreal, Quebec. By 2001, this insect had also spread across several states of the North-Eastern U.S. In 2001, Mr Gathercole also first identified the insect in the Pacific North-West, in New Westminster, British Columbia, while local experts and entomologists were somehow baffled about an insect pest that had created a well-documented ECOLOGICAL DISASTER in urban landscapes throughout Eastern North America. Additionally, Mr Gathercole exhaustively investigated the introduction of this pest into British Columbia and Quebec. In both cases, the European Chafer was imported by CONTAMINATED SOD PRODUCTS originating from grower locations in the province of Ontario.

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about NON-EXPERT PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G