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Grub Control in Home Lawns 2001

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Listed below are trade names and common chemical names of insecticides available to homeowners for controlling white grubs in lawns.

Preventative Control Products

Due to the development of new and improved insecticide chemistries, season-long residual or “preventative” controls are now available. Subsequently, they are becoming the preferred management strategy. Preventative control strategies require insecticide application prior to egg lay or hatch, timing varies depending on grub species: May/June beetle; late-May – early-June and Japanese beetle; late-June – late-July.

Trade Name	Company	Common Chemical Name	Overall Toxicity	Application Timing
Season-Long Grub Control	Bayer Advanced Lawn	Imidacloprid	Low	Late-May – Late July
GrubEx	Scotts	halofenozide	Low	Late-May – Late July

Applications of preventative control products should not be made after **August 1st**!



White grub damage

Curative Control

The curative control approach entails applying a control product when grubs are present, active, and causing measurable damage. Insecticides should be applied when grubs are feeding in the root zone. However, great control can be attained if insecticide is applied to smaller or younger grubs – usually in July and August for May/June and Japanese beetles, respectively.

Trade Name	Company	Common Chemical Name	Overall Toxicity	Application Timing
24 Hour Grub Killer	Bayer	trichlorfon	Low	Mid-May – Early October
Sevin	Numerous	carbaryl	Low	Mid-May – Early October
Diazinon	Numerous	diazinon	High	No longer recommended.
Dursban	Numerous	chlorpyrifos	High	No longer recommended

Remember that grubs feed in the root zone, thus the control product must reach them in order to be effective. Therefore, regardless of insecticide brand or formulation, you **must** water the insecticide into the root zone to achieve maximum effectiveness. Apply at least ½ inch of irrigation or rainfall on sandy soils, and up to ¾ inch on heavier clay soils. Apply water within 24 hours after application to get the most benefit from insecticides. For spray formulations, **wash spray off grass plants and into the soil before the spray dries**. Liquid formulations of some products have shown greater efficiency.

For information on May/June Beetle White Grubs refer to UW-Extension Bulletin A3275. For Japanese Beetles refer to X1062. For other pesticide recommendations see Bulletin #A3714.

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