



Impact Statements System

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'White Grub infestations in Pasture and Lawns'

Statement

- **Title** : White Grub infestations in Pasture and Lawns
- **Brief Title** : [White Grub Infestations](#)
- **Author** : Lancaster, Charles
- **Year** : 2006
- **State Issue** : Agricultural Profitability and Sustainability
- **County** : Catoosa
- **Group** : Crop & Soil Sciences
- **Scope** : County

Summary

White grubs populations were high in home lawns and pastures during the fall of 2006 in Catoosa County. Identification and control recommendations from Extension Agent helped both homeowners and farmers minimize their damage.

Situation

During mid October of 2006, the Catoosa County Extension Office received numerous calls concerning white grubs in home lawns and in some pastures. Client concerns became more apparent after a couple of days of rainy weather following a prolonged dry period. Homeowners were seeing numerous white grubs gathering on their walkways and driveways. One farmer, James Lyles, observed large bare areas, 2-3 acres, in a newly planted 13 acre field. This field was planted in Max-Q Fescue at a cost of around \$90.00/ acre for seed cost. Concern from producer was whether this damage was from armyworms, which we had seen in the county earlier, or other insects including grubs.

Response

A field visit was made to Mr. Lyles' farm was made to view first hand the damage and possible causes. Several defining indicators were observed. The most obvious, were the large bare areas in the field. At least 2 acres had no visible cover. The soil also had numerous dime size holes throughout, with a spongy just tilled feel. After pulling back soil in random locations, the county Extension Agent discovered numerous white grub infestations. Grub samples and photos were collected for identification. Using the DDDI microscopes, the Agent identified the grubs as Green June Beetles. After consulting with Dr. Will Hudson, Extension Entomologist, a spray application to reduce the population was recommended.

In addition to one on one client visits to discuss control methods a media campaign was developed which included identification, life cycle and control options.

Impact

By identifying the cause of damage, and by recommending a control spray at \$20.00 per acre, Mr. Lyles was able to control the spread of the grubs with only minimal time and financial setbacks. He reseeded the affected 2-3 acres at \$90.00 per acre, but saved the additional \$900.00 seed cost by having treated the remaining 10 acres. Furthermore, Mr. Lyles was advised by the agent to monitor this area next spring for Green June Beetle activity and be proactive if control is needed.

Through media efforts and office contacts, concerned homeowners and farmers were provided information to reduce

or eliminate white grub populations.

Program Function(s)

- Extension

Funding Source(s)

- Private Funds

Program Area(s)

- Agriculture & Natural Resources

Collaborator(s)

CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

Topic(s)

- General ANR

Non-CAES Collaborator(s)

(None)

Keyword(s)

- No relevant keyword available

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