



MONITORING

- Cut three sides of a 30cm x 30cm square (about the length of a ruler) of grass to a depth of 5cm (about 2in).
- Fold back the square patch and count the grubs in the soil by digging around.
- Cut five more squares of sod/turf in different areas of your lawn, count the grubs in each square.
- If more than 5 grubs per square are found, then chafer control may be necessary.

CONTROL

- Apply nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* is recommended) in late July. Contact your local garden centre to pre-order nematodes ahead of time.
- Nematodes can be an effective treatment – provided they are properly refrigerated, correctly applied and lawns are well-maintained before and during treatment and thoroughly watered for about two weeks following application.
- Water Exemption Permits must be obtained through the Engineering Department to prevent conflict with City watering restrictions. Visit coquitlam.ca/chaferbeetle for more information.
- Please note that most chemical insecticides are prohibited under the City's Pesticide Use Control Bylaw.

PREVENTION

The best line of defense is proper lawn maintenance year round! This includes:

- Aerating – best done in spring and fall to improve the health of lawns.
- High mowing – keep grass at least 6cm high and leave clippings on the lawn to act as mulch.
- Alternative ground cover – consider alternative plantings such as brass buttons, Irish moss / Scotch moss, goldmoss stonecrop or microclover.

OTHER PREVENTION TIPS INCLUDE

- If you hire landscapers, check to make sure they properly clean their tools to avoid contamination.
- Hire a Certified landscaper through the BC Landscaping and Nursery Association (bclna.com)
- If you purchase top soil, you may want to ask the vendor how they ensure their soil isn't contaminated.

Contact Us

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    [CityofCoquitlam](https://www.cityofcoquitlam.ca)

EUROPEAN CHAFER BEETLE



LAWN CARE GUIDELINES



January - March

- Look for damaged turf and monitor for grubs in cut sections of lawn.
- If more than five grubs per section are found, consider nematode application.

April – May

- Aerate soil (best done in spring).
- Consider pre-ordering nematodes from your local garden centre.
- Rake up or till under damaged turf.
- Apply top dressing of compost/topsoil to damaged areas.
- Reseed with deep rooted grass.
- Water new turf daily.
- Water established lawns 1-2 times per week.
- Keep grass at least 6cm high, leave clippings on the lawn.

June

- Water lawns 1-2 times per week.
- Keep grass at least 6cm high, leave clippings on the lawn.

July

- Apply nematodes in late July.
- Thoroughly water lawn prior to and after application (Water Exemption Permit required).

August

- Water lawn 1-2 times/week.
- Maintain a grass height of 5-6cm and leave clippings on the lawn.

September

- Apply an organic fertilizer or a quality slow release synthetic chemical fertilizer.
- Maintain a grass height of 5-6cm and leave clippings on the lawn.

October – November

- Aerate soil (best done in fall).
- Monitor for grubs in cut sections of lawn.
- Cover up exposed soil to deter further damage from animals.

December

- No maintenance needed at this time.

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN CHAFER BEETLE?



The European Chafer beetle is an invasive insect pest. Its larvae feed on the roots of grasses, causing serious damage to lawns.

Adult Chafer beetles are tan or brown, measuring approximately 1.5cm (0.5in) long. The larvae (or grubs) have brown heads and white, C-shaped bodies, and they're smaller than a dime.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A CHAFER BEETLE INFESTATION?



Chafer beetle infestation is often most visible when raccoons, birds and other wildlife, eager to eat the grubs, begin digging up grasses and damaging turf.

Between January and March you can monitor your grass for grubs by cutting back a section of the turf and digging around in the dirt. If there are more than five grubs per section, you may want to consider Chafer beetle control.



CHAFER BEETLE LIFE CYCLE



January – March

- The grubs continue to grow as they feed.
- They remain within 5cm of the ground surface.
- Predators cause the most turf damage at this time as they dig up the grubs for food.

April – June

- The grubs have grown into beetles.
- The beetles fly into the trees to mate and feed.
- Female beetles deposit eggs (up to 50 per female) back in the soil.
- Minimal turf damage at this time.

July

- Eggs hatch.
- New grubs begin to feed on grass roots.
- Infected turf may feel spongy when stepped on.
- Damage to turf may start to be visible in brown, dying patches of grass.

August – September

- Grubs feed on turf.
- Infected turf may feel spongy when stepped on.
- Damage to turf may start to be visible in brown, dying patches of grass.

October – December

- The grubs continue to grow as they feed.
- They remain within 5cm of the ground surface.
- Predators cause turf damage at this time as they dig up the grubs for food.

