Technical Guide

Integrated Pest Management

Technical Guide about pests encountered in KAUST and how they are controlled.

WHITE GRUB: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

White grubs are grass pests. They feed on the roots and rhizomes of all common grass species and cultivars below the soil surface and can destroy the entire root system. White grubs can quickly kill huge grass patches when abundant.

White grubs eat grass roots and stems after hatching. Localized patches of pale, dying grass indicate moisture stress. As grubs grow, damaged areas expand and merge. Such grass is spongy and can be lifted or rolled like a carpet to reveal the C-shaped white grubs underneath.

White Grubs commonly found in the grass of KAUST:

White Lawn Grubs

Mature Beatles

Life Cycle of White Grubs

Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Check whether an infestation is present by digging for the white grubs early in the growing season when grubs are still closer to the surface.

2. IPM-guided essential control mainly:

   - **Cultural Control** - Healthy lawns cut at 2" or higher can tolerate a lot of insect feeding without showing injury. Lawn pests do not have to be controlled every year unless damage is visible or significant.

   - **Mechanical Control** - Removing excessive thatch by raking, which is the buildup of dead and living plant matter at the base of the plants. Use aerator for aerating the grass.

   - **Chemical Control** - If other methods fail, administer insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the label claim of the chemical product, such as Decis 100EC *Deltamethrin 10% EC*.

3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do to prevent White Grubs in your garden

- Maintain good sanitary conditions White Grubs infected plants.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call Center by calling 959 from any landline.