

FAQ - Chafer Beetle

How to Take Care of Lawn

Q: How can I prevent chafer beetle infestations?

A: Maintaining a healthy lawn is key. Ensure your lawn is well-watered and fertilized. You can also use biological control methods, such as applying nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) or the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *galleriae* (Btg), which target chafer beetle larvae.

Chafer Beetle Prevention Measures

Q: What is the City of Maple Ridge doing to prevent the spread of the chafer beetle?

A: The City of Maple Ridge is actively monitoring and managing chafer beetle populations. We promote healthy lawn care practices, such as proper watering, mowing, and fertilization, to make lawns less attractive to beetles. The city also encourages the use of biological control methods, like nematodes, to target beetle larvae.

Chafer Beetle Management in Parks and City Property

Q: How does the City of Maple Ridge manage chafer beetles in parks and city property?

A: To manage chafer beetles in public spaces, the city uses a mix of natural methods. This involves keeping the grass healthy with good watering, mowing, and fertilization practices. In addition, the city applies biological control agents, such as nematodes, to specifically target and reduce beetle larvae.

Q: What steps are taken to repair damage caused by chafer beetles in parks?

A: The city frequently checks and fixes damaged grass in parks and public areas. This might include reseeded, adding topsoil, or using different ground covers in busy areas to lessen the effects of beetle infestations.

Q: How does the city prevent the spread of chafer beetles from infested areas?

A: To prevent the spread of chafer beetles, the city avoids using infested soil and turf, thoroughly cleans landscaping equipment, and properly disposes of any infested grass. While it's not possible to completely get rid of chafer beetles in Maple Ridge, consistent and effective management strategies can greatly reduce the damage they cause.

Can I use Pesticides?

Q: Does the City of Maple Ridge use pesticides to control chafer beetles?

A: No, pesticides cannot be used for cosmetic reasons, including treating chafer beetles, in the City of Maple Ridge. The city's Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 6413-2006 limits pesticide use unless there's a threat to human or animal health or risk of damage to buildings and structures.

Q: What alternatives to pesticides does the city recommend for chafer beetle control?

A: The city suggests using natural methods like applying nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) or products containing the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *galleriae* (Btg), such as Grub Be Gone, to target chafer beetle larvae. Additionally, keeping your lawn healthy with proper watering, mowing, and fertilization is recommended.

Q: Are there any exceptions to the pesticide ban?

A: For control of chafer beetle-related turf issues, no, there are no pesticide ban exceptions.

What are the Regulations

Q: What is the City going to do to repair my boulevard or yard?

A: The City of Maple Ridge expects property owners and residents to take care of the boulevards next to their homes. This responsibility includes maintaining areas along the front, back, or sides of the property, as well as the boulevards between the curb and the sidewalks.

Q: Are there any specific regulations for residents to follow?

A: Yes, residents are encouraged to follow the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw No. 7666-2020, which outlines the responsibilities of property owners in maintaining their boulevards, including managing invasive species like the chafer beetle.

Q: Are there any penalties for not maintaining my boulevard?

A: Yes, the Boulevard Maintenance Bylaw No. 7666-2020 outlines penalties for failing to maintain boulevards, including managing invasive species like the chafer beetle.

Chafer Beetle FAQ

Q: What is a chafer beetle?

A: The European chafer beetle (*Amphimallon majale*) is an invasive species that feeds on the roots of turf grass, causing considerable damage to lawns and green spaces



Q: How can I identify a chafer beetle?

A: Adult chafer beetles are light brown and about 1-1.5 cm long. They have white, fluffy hair on the underside of their thorax. The larvae, or grubs, are C-shaped, white with a tan head, and can grow up to 2.5 cm long

Q: When are chafer beetles most active?

A: Adult beetles emerge for 1-2 weeks in June to mate and lay eggs. The larvae are most active in the soil during the fall and spring

Q: What damage do chafer beetles cause?

A: Chafer beetle larvae eat grass roots, which can cause brown patches and weaken the lawn. Plus, animals such as crows, skunks, and raccoons might dig up the lawn searching for these grubs, leading to more damage.

Q: What are the signs of chafer beetle infestation?

A: Look for signs like brown patches on your lawn, grass that feels spongy, and animals such as crows, skunks, and raccoons tearing up the grass.

Q: How do chafer beetles spread?

A: Chafer beetles can spread through infested turf and soil. They were first introduced to British Columbia in 2001, likely through infested turf from Europe.

Q: Can chafer beetles affect other plants?

A: Although they usually feed on turf grass, when food is limited, they might also eat vegetable plants like corn, potatoes, blueberries, and strawberries.

Q: What is the life cycle of a chafer beetle?

A: The life cycle includes:

- **April to June:** Adult beetles emerge, mate, and lay eggs.
- **July to September:** Eggs hatch, and larvae feed on turf roots.
- **October to March:** Larvae continue feeding and growing, causing considerable damage.

Q: What are the best practices for managing chafer beetle infestations?

A: Best practices include:

- **Aerating, fertilizing, and watering your lawn** to keep it healthy.
- **Using biological control agents** like nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) or bacteria (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *galleriae*) to target larvae
- **Replacing grass with alternative ground covers** in high-traffic areas

Q: What resources are available for chafer beetle management?

A: Resources include:

- **City Of Maple Ridge** [Invasive Species & Pests | Maple Ridge, BC](#)
- **Metro Vancouver Best Management Practices** for the European Chafer Beetle. [european-chafer-beetle-best-management-practices.pdf](#)
- **Local garden centers** for purchasing biological control agents

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