

AFRICAN BLACK BEETLE

Heteronychus arator

ecogrow



A CLEANRIVER COMPANY

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Damage:

The scarab beetle larvae, rather than the adult beetle, causes most injury to turf. The larvae feed on the roots and rizomes, leading to a reduced ability for the grass to take up nutrients and water from the soil. The grass wilts, and dies quickly in times of even slight water or heat stress. If the problem is not addressed quickly, the larvae will destroy the turf. Large irregular patches, regardless of heat and water conditions, is usually a first visible sign of damage.

Scarab beetle damage can initially be diagnosed as drought stress in turf. Heavily infested areas appear wilted, which, with continued feeding will cause turf loss.

These features will not always be seen in turf with a black beetle problem.

Another indicator is damage to the turf caused by birds searching for grubs as food. Birds will generally cause a great deal of damage. They tear at the turf and roll it back like a carpet to get at the grubs. Once the roots become separated from the soil, costs for remedial work become significantly higher.

Control:

ENs provide a very effective control for black beetle larvae, and are especially virulent against third instars.



Top: Adult African Black Beetle

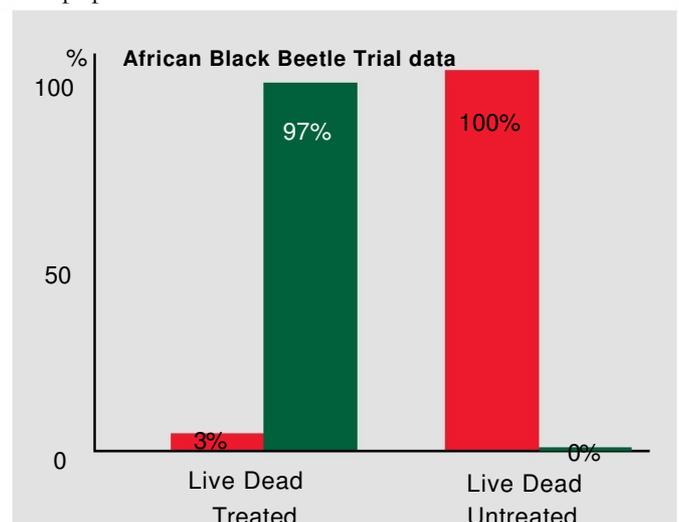
Bottom: 3rd Stage Black Beetle Larva

- * Proven Performance
- * Rapid Control of Pest
- * Easy to use
- * Development of resistance unlikely
- * Non Toxic
- * Compatible with most turf registered Chemicals
- * No impact on beneficial soil organisms and fauna
- * No registration required
- * No withholding period
- * No special equipment required
- * No safety requirements
- * No disposal problems
- * Valuable positive public relations

Apply only at dusk when soil temperature is above 12 degrees and less than 30 degrees. Pre-irrigate the area to be treated thoroughly (if dry), and then apply the ENs with at least 500 litres of water per hectare. Always apply evenly, and a cross-hatch pattern can be used if required.

Irrigate again (9 - 12 mm) after applying ENs, and maintain good soil moisture over the next few weeks. Good results are achieved within 7 to 14 days following treatment.

Continue to monitor turf quality and inspect for reducing larvae populations.



Replicated trial work conducted at Peninsula Golf Club, Feb - March 1999, supervised by CSIRO and the VGA. 97% kill rate achieved four weeks following treatment. Treated turf contained a high population of third instar African Black Beetle.

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