

ARGENTINE STEM WEEVIL

Lissonotus bonariensis



Top: Adult Argentine stem weevil

Bottom: Typical weevil larva

EN Features

- * 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
- * No registration required
- * No withholding period
- * No special equipment required
- * No safety requirements
- * No disposal problems
- * Valuable positive public relations

Contact:

Ecogrow Environment Pty Ltd
Tel: +61 2 9389 0888 Fax: +61 2 9389 2244
Email: info@ecogrow.com.au
Internet: www.ecogrow.com.au

Damage:

The Argentine Stem Weevil is a major pest of cool season turf grasses in Australia, and in particular, Bent or Poa annua greens. They attack turf by boring into grass stems and, once too big, the larvae drop out and move into the soil and thatch, to prepare for pupation. Although they grow only to around 5mm, the damage they can cause is substantial, especially when combined with stress brought on by heat and drought. Damage appears as wilting turf, followed by browning and death.

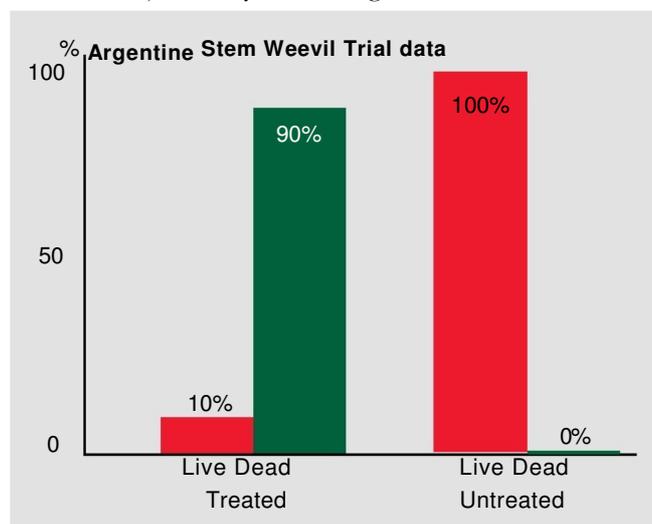
It is the larval stage that does all the damage, and it is therefore these that must be controlled in order to maintain and enhance overall turf quality. Because misdiagnosis is common, it is useful to monitor turf areas during times of high stem weevil activity. A common and effective test is the Pyrethrum detection method. This uses a weak irritating dose of insecticide to bring adult stem weevils to the surface. Rarely, will larvae emerge. If such a test shows numbers higher than an established threshold level, then treatment is warranted. Such a level may be as low as 3 adults per square meter.

Control:

ENs provide a very effective control for Argentine stem weevil larvae.

Apply only at dusk when soil temperature is above 15 degrees and less than 30 degrees. Pre-irrigate the area to be treated thoroughly, and then apply the ENs with at least 500 litres of water per hectare. Always apply evenly, and use a cross-hatch pattern if necessary. Hand spray equipment can be used for smaller areas, or a boom spray where broader areas are to be treated.

Irrigate again after applying ENs, and maintain good soil moisture over the next few weeks. Good results are achieved from just 7 days following treatment.



Trial work conducted at Tullamarine Golf Club, Summer 1999-2000, supervised by CSIRO and the VGA. The results indicate the successful decline of the population after two weeks.