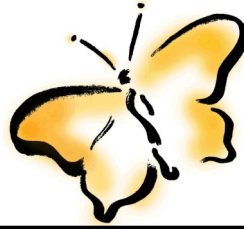


Sod Webworm Campbell's

CULTIVATING IDEAS



2342 South 40th Street
(402) 483-7891

5625 Pine Lake Road
(402) 423-1133

www.campbellsnursery.com



DESCRIPTION

Adult sod webworms are grayish-tan “millers” about 1/2 to 3/4 inches long with a snout projecting from the head. At rest, they fold their wings around the body, giving them a cylindrical appearance. The larvae vary from small, newly hatched worms to about 3/4 inch in length when mature. They are grayish-brown with small, dark spots, covered with fine hairs, and they have numerous legs.

LIFE CYCLE

Sod webworms over-winter in the soil. First, larvae activity may be found in April and early May. First generation adults emerge in May. Adults hide in lawns and in shrubbery during the day. At night, they fly over grass, scattering eggs over the lawn.

Eggs hatch in about one week and larvae begin feeding soon after hatching. The life cycle is completed in 3 to 4 weeks. There are several generations each year, and all stages are present during summer and early fall.

DAMAGE

Adults do not feed on grass. Larvae feed at night on grass blades and crowns near the soil level, hiding in soil or thatch during the day.

The first sign of damage is usually irregular brown spots. If infestations are severe, areas of turf may become completely brown. Continued feeding may kill the grass, especially during the summer heat and drought stress. The most serious injury will occur from mid-June until September. They will attack most lawn grasses.

CONTROL

When control is necessary, the following steps may help assure satisfactory results:

Be certain sod webworms are the primary problem. Some lawn diseases cause brown spots that appear much like Webworm injury. The worms can be found near the edges of brown spots. Grass will be chewed off at, or just above, the soil surface. Fresh clippings are usually present. If 15 or more larvae are found per square yard of area, control is probably necessary. If no evidence of feeding or larvae is found, the problem is due to some other cause.

Mow the lawn before application and remove clippings.

Water lawn thoroughly if needed.

Apply an insecticide in the late afternoon or early evening.

Water lightly to wash the insecticide off the grass blades into the turf.

INSECTICIDES WHICH GIVE CONTROL ARE: Sevin and Diazinon. These should be mixed according to directions and may be applied either as sprays or in granular form. We recommend 2 or 3 sprayings on 3 to 4 week intervals, starting the first week in July. It is best to prevent the damage rather than try to cure it.

***NOTE: All products should be lightly sprinkled after application.