



What is the European Chafer beetle?

European Chafer beetle is an invasive insect pest that has spread throughout Metro Vancouver over the last decade.

Adult beetles are tan or brown and about 1.5cm (0.5in) long. The larvae (or grubs) have brown heads, white C-shaped bodies, six prominent legs and are smaller than a dime.

The beetles damage lawns in two ways:

- The larvae feed on the roots of grass during the summer.
- With the grass weakened, birds and animals can easily peel back portions of turf in the fall and winter to search for larvae to eat.

How do I know if I have an infestation?

An infestation is often most visible when raccoons, birds and other wildlife begin digging up grasses and damaging turf to search for grubs.

Between January and March you can also monitor your grass for grubs by cutting back a section of the turf and digging underneath (*see next page for more details about how to do this.*) If there are more than five grubs per section, you may want to consider Chafer beetle control.

The best defence against European Chafer beetle is a healthy lawn!

The European Chafer beetle is here to stay, but residents can minimize the damage and once again be proud of their lawns by changing how they care for their grass.



Read this brochure and visit the website below to learn about effective prevention and control options involving natural lawn-care techniques.

Please note that the use of cosmetic pesticides is banned in Port Coquitlam by the Pesticide Use and Control Bylaw.

More information

Visit the website below or contact Parks staff:

Tel 604.927.5480

Email parks@portcoquitlam.ca

Got BEEBLE MANIA?



Get help with your lawn

www.portcoquitlam.ca/chaferbeetle

Managing and preventing the
European Chafer beetle

Managing Chafer beetle

Monitor:

Monitor for grubs between January and March:

- Cut three sides of a 30cm x 30cm square (about the length of a ruler) of grass to a depth of 5cm (about 2in).
- Fold back the square patch and count the grubs in the soil by digging around.
- Cut five more squares of sod/turf in different areas of your lawn, count the grubs in each square.
- If there are more than five grubs per section, you may want to consider Chafer beetle control.

Control:

- Nematodes, a microscopic worm that feeds on beetle larvae, can be an effective treatment, provided they are properly refrigerated and applied, and lawns are kept moist before treatment and for about two weeks afterwards.
- Apply nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* is recommended) in late July. Contact your local garden centre to pre-order nematodes ahead of time and closely follow the instructions, including extensive watering.
- Sprinkling permits must be obtained to prevent conflict with City watering restrictions from June 1 to September 30. Visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/sprinkling for the application form and details.
- Please note that the use of cosmetic pesticides is banned in Port Coquitlam.

Prevention:

Keep your lawn healthy by:

- Aerating – best done in spring and fall to improve the health of lawns.
- High mowing – keep grass at least 6cm high and leave clippings on the lawn as mulch.
- Employing other natural lawn care techniques found at www.portcoquitlam.ca/yardcare.



Lawn care calendar

HOW TO DEAL WITH CHAFER BEETLE

HOW TO KEEP YOUR LAWN HEALTHY

January - March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for damaged turf and monitor for grubs in cut sections of lawn. If more than five grubs are found per section, consider nematode treatment in the summer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No maintenance needed.
April - June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rake over damaged turf. • Apply a light soil topdressing and reseed damaged areas. • Water newly planted lawns frequently (daily if necessary) to keep the soil surface moist. (<i>Sprinkling rules/permit info: www.portcoquitlam.ca/sprinkling.</i>) • Pre-order nematodes from the local garden centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerate lawn. • Use a natural organic or slow-release fertilizer. • Maintain a grass height of at least 6 cm and leave clippings on the lawn to act as mulch. • Follow watering restrictions and water twice weekly for a total of about 2.5 cm per week.
July - August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply a nematode treatment using step-by-step instructions on package or online. • Thoroughly water lawn prior to and after application (<i>sprinkling permits: www.portcoquitlam.ca/sprinkling</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a grass height of at least 6 cm and leave clippings on the lawn to act as mulch. • Follow watering restrictions and water twice weekly for a total of about 2.5 cm per week.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If nematodes were applied in late August, continue to thoroughly water lawn for about two weeks afterwards, per instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a natural organic or slow-release fertilizer. • Maintain a grass height of at least 6 cm and leave clippings on the lawn to act as mulch.
October - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor for grubs in cut sections of lawn. • Cover up exposed soil to deter further damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerate lawn.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to cover up exposed soil to deter damage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No maintenance needed.

Other prevention tips:

- It is not necessary to remove damaged turf, but residents may rototill the soil if they wish, or dispose of contaminated turf at Wastech (1200 United Blvd, Coquitlam) or Meadows Landscape Recycling Centre (17799 Ferry Slip Road, Pitt Meadows). *Do not put large amounts of contaminated turf and soil into your green cart.*
- Consider alternative ground cover such as brass buttons, Irish moss / Scotch moss, little star creeper, creeping thyme, goldmoss stonecrop or microclover.
- If you hire landscapers, make sure they properly clean their tools to avoid contamination.
- If you purchase topsoil, ask the vendor how they ensure their soil isn't contaminated.

Learn more at www.portcoquitlam.ca/chaferbeetle