Weed Control

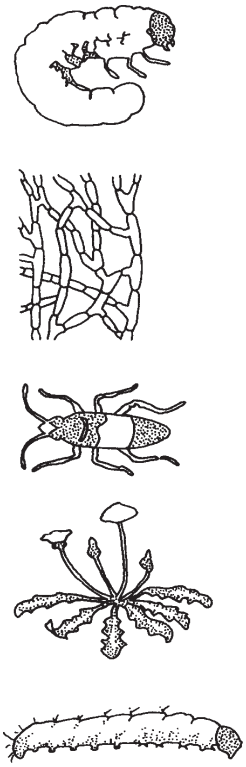
Mid-June is usually the time to apply MSMA or Acclaim for postemergent control of crabgrass. The wet, cool spring followed by record warmth in late April could reduce preemergent herbicide effectiveness. Escaped crabgrass plants should be controlled while they are still young. MSMA at 2 lb ai/A will control crabgrass at this time with one application. Acclaim at 0.125 lb ai/A has controlled crabgrass at the 1 tiller stage. Later in the season, repeated applications or higher rates will be necessary. In areas with heavy crabgrass pressure, a second application of a preemergent herbicide may be needed. This may be tank mixed with the Acclaim or MSMA. Goosegrass and spurge will also be germinating in June. Preemergent herbicides should be applied by the first of June for these summer annual weeds. Nutsedge will sprout in by mid-June. Two applications of Basagran or MSMA are generally required to achieve acceptable control. Apply 2 lb ai/A of either Basagran or MSMA by the end of June. Follow with a second application 14 to 21 days later.

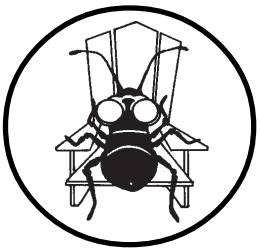
Disease Control

Summer is the time of the year when turfgrass disease pressure is at its greatest. Many of the modern fungicides used for disease control are systemic fungicides. This means that they move in the plant's vascular system from the point of absorption to other plant parts. Most of the systemic fungicides currently used move only upwards in the plant. Rubigan and Banner have limited downward mobility, while Alliette will move readily downward. The systemic properties of fungicides should be considered when developing a disease control program. In general, foliar disease control with systemic fungicides will be prolonged when they are drenched into the root zone. Drenching will also provide control of root and crown diseases. Root disease control with upward moving systemic fungicides is possible only if they are drenched into the root zone, whereas, downward moving systemic fungicides can control root diseases when applied as a foliar spray.

Insect Control

The time to control white grubs will soon be upon us. White grubs are most susceptible to insecticide applications when they first hatch in early to mid-August. Inspect lawns or other turf areas for the presence of grubs in mid-August. Since grubs will be found in almost all turfgrass areas, try to make a judgement on how many there are. Generally, damage will not occur on non-irrigated turf unless there are 8 or more grubs per square foot. Irrigated areas should tolerate more grubs before visual damage occurs. There are several species of grubs found in New York. Identify the species so that the most effective control strategy can be selected. This is most important if biological insecticides are used. If grubs are found in large numbers, select an insecticide labeled for the grub species found. Consult the Cornell Pest Management Recommends for insecticides labelled in New York. Water the affected area two days before the scheduled application. This is to move grubs up to the soil surface. Apply the insecticide according to label directions. Be sure to thoroughly water the lawn immediately after application to move the insecticide through the thatch to where the grubs are feeding.





Pest Watch

Generally, damage will not occur on non-irrigated turf unless there are 8 or more grubs per square foot. Irrigated areas should tolerate more grubs before visual damage occurs.

Successful grub control in August will eliminate the need for grub control the following spring.