



What is the European Chafer beetle?

The European Chafer beetle is an invasive insect pest. Its larvae feed on the roots of grasses, causing serious damage to lawns.

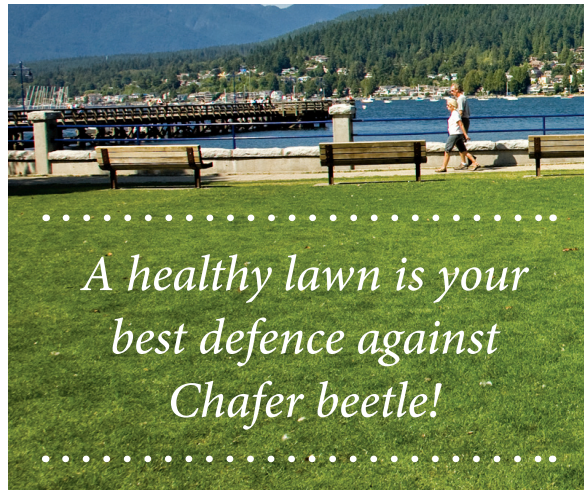
Adult Chafer beetles are tan or brown, measuring approximately 1.5cm (0.5in) long. The larvae (or grubs) have brown heads and white, C-shaped bodies, and they're smaller than a dime.

Read more about the life cycle of a Chafer beetle at www.portmoody.ca/chaferbeetle.

How do I know if I have a Chafer beetle infestation?

Chafer beetle infestation is often most visible when raccoons, birds and other wildlife, eager to eat the grubs, begin digging up grasses and damaging turf.

Between January and March you can monitor your grass for grubs by cutting back a section of the turf and digging around in the dirt. If there are more than five grubs per section, you may want to consider Chafer beetle control.



What about water sprinkling?

We recognize that many residents who bought nematodes last year were not able to use them due to Metro Vancouver's water restrictions. While the City has to comply with regional directives, we understand how this impacted residents. This summer, the City is again offering relief to residents who are dealing with these pesky bugs, including a nematode coupon program, and water sprinkling exemptions for those who purchase nematodes. And there's some good news - Metro Vancouver is allowing water sprinkling exemptions this year to assist residents with Chafer control!



Dealing with Chafer beetle

A guide on how to manage, control and prevent this invasive species.

Managing Chafer beetle

Monitoring:

- Cut three sides of a 30cm x 30cm square (about the length of a ruler) of grass to a depth of 5cm (about 2").
- 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 more than 5-10 grubs per square are found, then chafer control may be necessary.

Control:

- Apply nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* is recommended) in late July. Contact your local garden centre to pre-order nematodes ahead of time.
- Nematodes can be an effective treatment – provided they are properly refrigerated, correctly applied and lawns are well-maintained before treatment and extensively watered following application.
- Please note that most chemical insecticides are restricted under the City's Pesticide Use Control Bylaw.

Prevention:

The best line of defense is proper lawn maintenance year round! This includes:

- **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 to act as mulch.
- **Alternative ground cover** – consider planting low-maintenance plants, such as Dutch white clover, or ornamental grasses.



Lawn care calendar

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 treatment in the summer.
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerate soil.• Consider pre-ordering a nematode device from your local garden centre.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rake over damaged turf. If removing turf, dispose at Wastech (1200 United Blvd, Coquitlam)• Apply top dressing of compost / topsoil to damaged areas.• Reseed with deep-rooted grass.• Water new turf daily.• Water established lawns 1-2 times per week.• Keep grass at least 6 cm high, leave clippings on the lawn
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water lawn 1-2 times per week.• Keep grass at least 6cm high.• Leave clippings on the lawn.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply nematode treatment according to instructions• Thoroughly water lawn prior to and after application (water exemption permit required).
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water lawn 1-2 times per week.• Maintain a grass height of 6cm and leave clippings on the lawn.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply an organic fertilizer or a quality slow-release synthetic fertilizer.• Maintain a grass height of 6cm and leave clippings on the lawn.
October - November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerate soil.• Monitor for grubs in cut sections of lawn.• Cover up exposed soil to deter further damage from animals.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No maintenance needed at this time.

Learn more about our Chafer beetle program at www.portmoody.ca/chaferbeetle

Other prevention tips include:

- If you hire landscapers, make sure their tools are clean and not contaminated.
- If you purchase top soil, you may want to ask the vendor how they ensure their soil isn't contaminated.
- Consider alternative plantings such as brass buttons, Irish moss / Scotch moss, little star creeper, creeping thyme, goldmoss stonecrop or microclover.
- Dispose of contaminated turf at Wastech (1200 United Blvd, Coquitlam). Do not put it in your green cart.