



Argentine Scarab

› **Scientific Name:** *Cyclocephala signaticollis*

› **Order:** Coleoptera

› **Susceptible Species**

- Most warm season turfgrass species.

› **Description**

- **Immature/larval stage:** White to creamy-white, soft bodied curl grub up to 25mm long. Similar to African Black Beetle with three sets of legs and a hard, light brown head capsule, but appears in larger numbers and is more active.
- **Mature/adult stage:** Olive coloured scarab beetle with brown markings and a soft shell, up to 15mm long.

› **Biology and Lifecycle**

- The Argentine Scarab has a one year lifecycle comprising of 2-4 weeks as an eggs, 10-11 months as larvae, 4-5 days as pupae and 1-4 weeks as adults.
- Adults emerge from the pupal stage at the beginning of summer when soil temperatures begin to warm. After mating, females burrow into soft, moist soils and deposit eggs in the upper soil profile.
- The eggs hatch 2-4 weeks later and larvae begin to feed on turf roots. Larvae grow quickly and reach 3rd instar within several weeks. In about May or June the 3rd instar larvae begin to move underground to overwinter within the soil.

› **Damage**

- Capable of causing damage to turf if present in plague proportions. Several consecutive hot, dry summers will often result in population build up to a point where damage is evident. Populations are concentrated mainly around the drier areas of the South Eastern Regions.
- Similarly to African Black Beetle, the Argentine Scarab larvae cause turf damage, and the adults do not feed. Larvae feed by chewing off turf roots in the shallow soil just below the thatch. Damage is reminiscent of drought stress, as the turf root system becomes compromised and moisture efficiency is lost.
- In severe cases, usually towards the end of the season when grubs are 3rd instar, turf can become severely damaged in patches. Often these patched of turf can be rolled back to expose feeding grubs beneath.

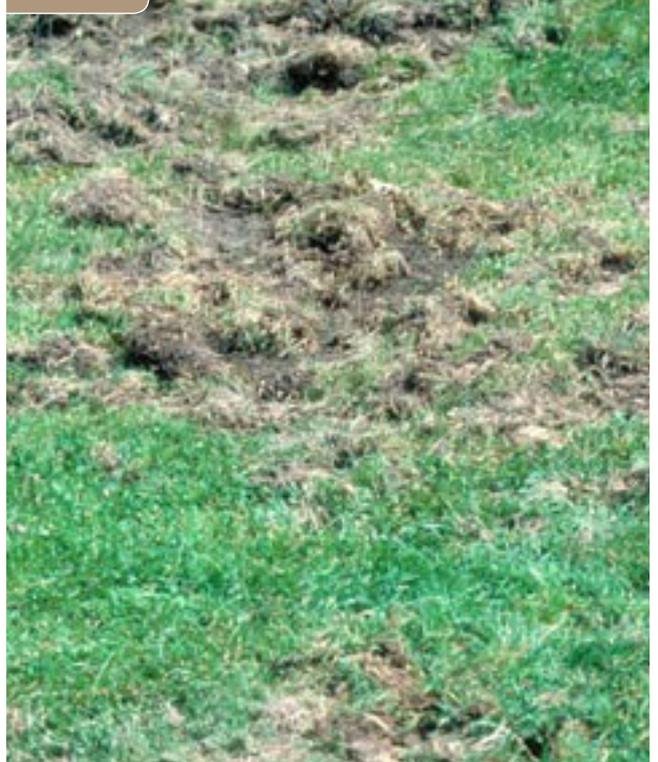
Larvae



Adult



Damage



› **Management Tips**

- Ensure infested areas of turf have do not suffer from moisture stress as this will exacerbate the symptoms of damage cause by larvae feeding.

