

Whole-Yard Insecticide

All kinds of insects are eating, growing, and living in your yard. Many of them are beneficial to your lawn. Unfortunately, some of them are harmful pests.

These pests fall into two subcategories. The first is pests that do not damage the lawn but are nuisances that can be harmful to people and pets; mosquitoes and most species of ants are good examples. In the other subcategory are insects that may pose no threat at all to people but can cause extensive damage to a lawn.

Protecting a lawn from harmful insects can be a little tricky because spots damaged by insects might appear like spots suffering from drought or weeds, and the wrong diagnosis can mean the wrong cure.

Insect pests live and “work” in three different parts of the lawn: on the grass blades themselves; in the crown, which is where the turf meets the soil; and below the surface in the soil itself.

We're not going to go into every single pest that can occur, but we are going to cover some of the most common and the most harmful, especially ones that are problematic in the Sioux Falls region.

- **Grubs**-- White grubs, the larval form of the June beetle, can be a serious problem. Grubs grow rapidly and eat the roots, causing the grass above to die. Since this all happening underground, it can be hard to detect until there is visible damage.
- **Chinch bugs**-- These tiny pests can cause a lot of harm, and they live on the grass, where they suck the sap from the blades and also introduce toxins that end up killing grass. One of the other pernicious aspects of damage from chinch bugs is that it looks like drought damage and occurs during the summer months when drought is most likely.
- **Cutworms and armyworms**-- These are caterpillars that eat grass and leaves. Like chinch bugs, they create brown or bare spots that appear to be from drought damage, so you could end up watering and fertilizing when that wasn't what was needed.
- **Sod webworms**-- The larvae of the sod webworm moth, these pests voraciously eat the stem and blades of the grass.
- **Japanese beetles**-- Japanese beetles don't eat your grass, but in their larval form, they are grubs living in the soil, causing the same kinds of trouble the white grubs do.
- **Billbugs (weevils)**-- This is another pest that likes to eat the grass itself.

These pests also attract animals that like to eat them, which sounds good until you realize those animals often dig up or burrow into the soil to get at their prey.

To fight back against pests, it's necessary to know that they're present and we know what to look for:

- Grass blades that appear to have been chewed on
- Brown or bare patches in the grass
- Patches of dead or dying grass
- Wilted grass
- Damage or disturbances in the crown (digging or burrowing by animals eating insects, for example)
- Loose grass indicating damage to the root system
- Evident insect presence and activity

We also inspect areas more likely to attract pests. These include dark areas, wet areas, the edges of the lawn, and areas adjacent to damaged spots.

In addition, we know how to determine the difference between damage by pests and damage by drought or disease.

Proper watering, fertilization, and mowing help protect a lawn and deter or manage pests, but prevention only goes so far, and it's almost inevitable that you will have to deal with pests.

When that happens, the most popular solution is to go with chemical pesticides, and many people apply them on their own, but there are some considerations to worry about:

- If you misapply or overapply them, they can miss their targets and/or kill things you don't want to kill.
- Misapplication and overapplication also make it more likely that dangerous chemicals can end up in waterways.
- Pesticides can be harmful and even lethal to people and pets. It is extremely important to avoid getting them in the eyes, nose, and mouth.

At Sharp Lawn Care, we offer Sioux Falls residents an eco-friendly whole-yard pesticide treatment that protects your lawn, keeps you and your loved ones safe, and doesn't harm the environment. We also have different levels of packages that include routine maintenance, weed control, and pest control. We'll do all the hard work, and you'll have the beautiful lawn and a protected investment. We'd love to provide a [free quote](#) today!

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<https://www.gardentech.com/blog/pest-id-and-prevention/how-to-detect-and-treat-common-lawn-pests>, <https://www.saferbrand.com/articles/lawn-pests-safer>,
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