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Common Lawn Pests

Pests from Aphids to Frit Flies can be very troublesome.

Quick guide on how to control turf pests and start protecting your garden today.
Earthworms are insects shaped like a thin tube that live within the soil and feed on organic matter. Earthworms can leave small mounds within your lawn; however, they are doing much more good than bad. They are known to enrich, aerate, relieve compaction and decompose soil – not pests at all.

Leatherjacks a larval before becoming a Crane Fly (more commonly known as a Daddy Longlegs). The Crane Fly will lay eggs in the lawn, producing Leatherjackets. This is a natural cycle and certainly nothing to be concerned about.

What time of year are Leatherjackets common?

Leatherjackets lend to be produced between February and October. To prevent the extreme condition where Leatherjackets cause patches and dry areas in your lawn has proven to be difficult. This is due to there being no chemical controls available.

Frit Flies are around 2-3mm in length with a black, shiny body. In large quantities can be harmful to a lawn. Particularly dangerous when developing as larva because they drill their way through the grass stems and cause colourless growth and patchy areas.

Adult Frit flies around autumn time, allowing the larvae to develop throughout winter. Next, the larvae pupate in the spring and emerge as adults around Easter.

What are the signs of Frit Flies in your lawn - Seedlings will become weak - Patchy and colourless - areas in the lawn - Slower grass growth.

Spray the areas that are showing poor and patchy growth with a pesticide that has chlorpyrifos.

Ants - cause little to nothing in terms of problems. Ants come in large colonies and in fact benefit your grass!

Ants protect plants from diseases and exterminate pests. However, in extreme cases, ants can cause soil mounds at the opening of their nests. Although, these are typically small and not too noticeable.

Ants typically cluster in August and are most active between April to October.
Its recommended that you leave any ants' nests alone, no matter where in your garden they are. This is because it can actually lead to a much larger problem as the ants will need to create and build new nests elsewhere.

If you find that there are ants' nests in your house then you can use chemicals to solve the issues. Most of these chemicals are suitable for indoor use and come as powders or gels.

Please don't use these chemicals near plants and definitely not directly on them. Doing so can seriously harm your plants!

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