

## **Cranberry Girdlers Increase Their Presence on CO Lawns**

You may hear the name and think there's no way that's a turf damaging insect, it sounds more like a fictional character. Unfortunately those involved in managing turfgrass in Colorado & western mountain regions have started to become very familiar with this insect. The name provides quite a bit of uncertainty to why these webworms have started to appear in lawns after being a common pest to cranberry bogs. Nonetheless, they can really make their presence known and destroy lawns. Currently, there is limited research on this insect and its migration to turfgrass which makes determining proper control very challenging. Most of the damage to turfgrass occurs late summer into fall and tends to mimic the same appearance as your common white grub damage. Drought symptoms from above but when you start to tug on the grass it will pull up like carpet. Cranberry girdlers overwinter as larvae and emerge in June as adult moths. Eggs are laid directly on turfgrass blades and then move their way into the thatch as larvae where feeding on roots/turfgrass crowns take place through late summer. Proper cultural practices are most important to avoid damage, well maintained lawns will do fine with a girdler infestation. It would be best to apply a spring/early summer treatment (Acelepryn) for lawns that have experienced damage in previous years. Acelepryn won't work fast enough if applied in the fall when you find the damage. Trichlorfon (Dylox) is your best rescue treatment during that stage. The time is now to provide the necessary training to your technicians on how to properly diagnose and control this insect. Take pictures & reach out to CALCP or CSU Turf Extension when you experience girdler presence & damage so we can start to learn more about this turf damaging insect. Best of luck!!

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