

## **FALL ARMY WORMS**

The Fall Army Worm is a visitor from our coastal areas, being either blown in or flying in during our spring months. This is when they lay their eggs in our areas. The eggs are then hatched within 5-10 days and mature in 10-20 days. This occurs at least three times during the spring and summer months. It is the adults that are produced in September which will cause the damage. They get the name “Fall Army Worms” because of the exceptionally large amount that get hatched and are invading the areas.

The fall months of September and October are the times that you may observe problems in your lawn as the worms are approaching adulthood and can eat a lot of turf grass. Those who have Fescue lawns can have more of a problem than those having Bermuda lawns. This is because Bermuda yards are less attractive to the Army Worms so those yards will have a smaller infestation rate than Fescue areas.

Regardless of grass type, if your yard has large brown spots this fall, be sure to check it out for Army Worm infestation. It is extremely helpful to catch this infestation as early as possible. A system for determining if you have an Army Worm problem is to mix one ounce of liquid detergent with one gallon of water and then apply this to one square yard of “Brown Spot”. Wait about 10 minutes and, if you have Army Worms, they should show up within the blades of grass. Having 8-10 worms per square foot means you need to start treatment on your lawn ASAP.

The use of organic insecticides is highly recommended and should be applied as per the label directions. They are highly effective for treatment of army worms. Resist the use of common insecticides as their use can kill many beneficial insects which, in turn, can help rid your yard and garden of other garden pests.

More information can be found by going to our web site: <https://www.tulsamastergardeners.org/> or call the Extension Office to speak with a Tulsa Master Gardener at 918 746-3701. Current hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.