

LAWN ARMY WORMS

Over the next several weeks, the larvae of the Fall Army Worm will be hatching out. The eggs have been laid on the tree leaves of host plants and they will be coming down from the tree leaves to the lawns, which will be their food supply.

The Army Worm Larvae is 1-1/2 to 2" long and can be dark green, brown or black. On each side is a long, pale white strip. Some stripes may be orange or black.

The name ARMY WORM has been used because of the very large amount of larvae that can be found infesting in yards and trees. If your lawn is being invaded by these worms, you may notice brown patches around the yard. Look at the edge of the brown spot and green grass to determine if you can see the grass has been chewed on. It might be easier to see if you use a water/soap wash to wet down the area.

The wash is made up of 1 gallon of water to 1 tablespoon of dishwasher soap. Pour the wash over several of the effected spots. Then, wait a few minutes. The larvae should start coming out of the ground. If you find at least 5-10 larvae (worms), you most likely will need treatment in order to get rid of the Army Worms. They prefer grasses and, in the fall, will attack fescue yards. If not taken care of by July their numbers could be so large that they could actually destroy a lawn. There are many useful and recommended pesticides that the homeowner can use. Call the Tulsa Master Gardener hotline at 918-746-3701 for a listing.

Homeowners should be aware that the problem may get worse in the months of July, August and September - even if they have treated their lawns earlier for Army Worm infestation. Early detection is the key and treatment of this infestation may be necessary in order to save a lawn. If you continue to have brown spots, multiple spray applications may be in order since this infestation could become devastating during the warmer months.

Resource:

OSU Fact Sheet [EPP-7094](#)