

Turfgrass Insect Pests

White Grub Complex

Masked Chafer (Cyclocephala spp.)



Adults are tan to brown in color and will reach lengths of 1/2". "Masked" chafers have a darkened area around their eyes and head.

The predominant species collected in 2 years of light trapping.

Different species active at different times of the year. Though exact dates are site-specific, approximate emergence and mating occurs 2x per year: - Early June—Mid July

- Early September

Susceptible first-instar grubs begin feeding on roots 2-3 weeks after peak adult emergence.



Growing up to 1" long, masked chafer grubs have a random, or scattered raster pattern at the posterior end of their abdomen.

<u>Size comparison of adult beetles:</u> (from left to right) June Beetle, Masked Chafer, BTA



Size comparison of 3rd instars: (From left to right) June Beetle, Masked Chafer, BTA



BTA adults (left) have smooth hind tibia, while Aphodius adults (right) have 3 spurs on their lower legs.



Visit <u>turf.arizona.edu</u> for real-time monitoring

of masked chafer populations at several golf course sites throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.



BTA (Ataenius spretulus)



Adults are black in color, have parallel grooves on the wing covers, and barely reach 3/16".

Though Black Turfgrass Ataenius (BTA) are abundant in turfgrass systems in Arizona, their role in insect–related turf loss is not well understood.

Multiple generations/year means multiple peaks/year.

Often confused with similar looking non-pest *Aphodius* beetle.



Growing only up to 1/4" long, BTA grubs have a scattered raster pattern and a pair of round pads at the end of their abdomen.

June Beetle *(Phyllophaga spp.)*



Adults, exceeding 3/4", are dark reddish-brown, robust, oblong, beetles.

There are many species of *Phyllophaga* found in Arizona, with life cycles ranging from 1-3 years.

Some species are shiny, dark brown, while others tend to have a dull, or dusty appearing abdomen.



Growing up to 1" long, Phyllophaga grubs have parallel rows of bristles, or a 'zipper' raster pattern.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, James A. Christenson, Director, Cooperative Extension, College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, The University of Arizona. The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities. Images courtesy of Ohio State University, University of Nebraska, UC Davis, Colorado State University, and Tony Galucci.