



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA.

Arizona's First University.

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.

Size comparison of adult beetles:

(from left to right)

June Beetle, Masked Chafer, BTA



Size comparison of 3rd instars:

(From left to right)

June Beetle, Masked Chafer, BTA



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.

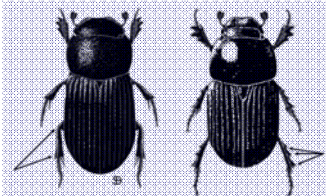
Multiple generations/year means multiple peaks/year.

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.

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



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.

Visit

turf.arizona.edu

for real-time monitoring of masked chafer populations at several golf course sites throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.

ARIZONA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION

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