



Green June beetle

Cotinis nitida

Order Coleoptera, Family Scarabaeidae; scarab beetles

Native pest

Pest information: Turfgrasses, root-feeding grubs; adults feed on grapes and other fruits.

Description: The green June beetle is green in color trimmed with brown along the edge. The underside is also green, but has a very shiny, metallic look. The adults are attracted to manure for oviposition and grubs can be found in many crops and ornamentals that have manure added to the soil. Adults reach a length of 25 mm. Grubs have typical scarab characteristics and reach 50 mm in length.

Life history: The grubs feed on the roots of turfgrass as well as corn, oats, sorghum, alfalfa, and nursery stock, especially where manure has been added to the soil. Adults feed on a variety of ripening fruits such as apples, pears, and grapes. There is a one year life cycle.

Overwintering: Grubs or prepupae in soil.

Damage symptoms: The roots of the grass are severed, so blades pull easily.

Monitoring: Grubs are most active after rains in late August through September. Threshold numbers for this species have not been set. Look for brown patches of turf that pull out of the ground, as the roots have been removed by grub feeding. Identify a grub problem by examining a square foot sample of lawn along the border where dead or damaged grass meets healthy grass. When grub densities are high, the blades pull away from the roots and the turf rolls back like a carpet. Skunks and moles are known to use grubs for food.

Cultural control: Maintain healthy grass by fertilizing in the spring and fall and watering during periods of drought.

Chemical control: Grubs are most active after rains in late August through September. Irrigate before and after an application to keep the grubs near the surface. Grub control in the early spring is difficult to achieve. Do not use broad spectrum insecticides routinely, as they will do more harm than good and will kill the beneficial insects that live in the turf, which can cause pest outbreaks.

Biological control: Carabid ground beetles, staphylinid rove beetles, ants, spiders.

Plant mortality risk: High, if threshold is reached.

Biorational pesticides: *Beauveria bassiana*, halofenozide

Conventional pesticides: carbaryl, trichlorfon



Green June beetle adult; note the brown lateral band and bright, metallic green color. (281)

Photo: unknown