Annual Bluegrass Weevil Optimum Control Strategy

The annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is the most troublesome insect for golf course superintendents in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S., and its impact continues to spread.

Identifying and suppressing overwintered adults and controlling the first and second generation of ABW early in the season are vital for avoiding multiple generations and overlapping life stages in summer and fall. The key to successful ABW control is properly timing early-season insecticide treatments. Missing an opportunity to control ABW early in the spring often means dealing with them all summer.

To help superintendents monitor this pest and time ABW control applications, Syngenta offers its annual WeevilTrakSM program. With its valuable researcher insights and digital ABW monitoring tools, WeevilTrak continues to be a trusted resource for superintendents. The latest survey of subscribers¹ showed that:

- 98% of users found WeevilTrak email alerts valuable
- 88% of users said WeevilTrak was their top tool for monitoring ABW followed by plant phenology and soap flushes

Through WeevilTrak, Syngenta works with university entomologists, turfgrass consultants and superintendents to track ABW all season by monitoring:

- Growing Degree Day (GDD) accumulations
- Timing of the first appearance of ABW adults
- Development of ABW larvae
- Phenological plant indicators

This research informs the proper application timing of each treatment in the WeevilTrak Optimum Control Strategy for season-long ABW management.

¹Survey distributed by Syngenta to WeevilTrak subscribers in December 2019 with 251 total responses.

Visit us at WeevilTrak.com
# Optimum Control Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Insecticide program</th>
<th>First Generation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stage 1:</strong> Overwintered Adults</td>
<td><strong>Stage 2:</strong> Early Instar (inside of stem)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scimitar® GC 10 fl. oz./A</td>
<td>Acelepryn® 12 fl. oz./A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Timing*
- **Application timing varies based on geography.** [Sign up for alerts at WeevilTrak.com for precise application timing.](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Notes</strong></th>
<th><strong>This application:</strong></th>
<th><strong>This application provides:</strong></th>
<th><strong>This application:</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Application is based on GDD and adult ABW activity.</strong></td>
<td>1. Reduces overall ABW pressure by killing adults on contact as they move from overwintering sites into areas of highly managed annual bluegrass</td>
<td>1. About three weeks of critical control of early-stage ABW larvae</td>
<td>1. Provides systemic control of ABW at all larval stages (first through fifth instar)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Early to mid-April</strong></td>
<td>2. Prevents early egg-laying by overwintered ABW females</td>
<td>2. Season-long control of white grubs</td>
<td>2. Controls asynchronous larval populations that may be present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phenological indicator:</strong> Forsythia half green half gold</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apply product at egg lay to ensure Acelepryn is in the transpiration stream prior to larvae feeding.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Late April to early May</strong></td>
<td><strong>Apply the third stage larvae exit the stem to feed on the crown and surface roots.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mid-May to early June</strong></td>
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### 24(c)s for Long Island:

Acelepryn is now available to golf course superintendents on Long Island under a Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration for control of white grubs and turf caterpillars.

Ference is now available on Long Island under a Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration for ABW control. Superintendents are required to have the Section 24(c) label in their possession and must use newly labeled product for applications.
### Insecticide program

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<th>Third Generation</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Scimitar GC 10 fl. oz./A</td>
<td>Stage 4: Adults</td>
<td>Stage 7: 1-5 larvae (if needed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provaunt® WDG 18 oz./A**</td>
<td>Stage 5: Adults and Late Instar</td>
<td>Ference 12 fl. oz./A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provaunt WDG 18 oz./A</td>
<td>Stage 6: Asynchronous larvae</td>
<td>Provaunt WDG 18 oz./A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Timing*

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<th>Timing*</th>
<th>Application is based on the presence of adults.</th>
<th>Application is recommended if there is a high population of adults with the presence of callow and mature adults.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid- to late June</td>
<td>Apply 7 to 14 days after an adulticide. Late June to early July</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apply 14 to 21 days after Provaunt WDG. Late July to early Aug.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apply 21 to 28 days after Ference. Late Aug. to early Sept.</td>
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### Notes

The Importance of Scouting

In addition to properly timing applications, adult scouting is one of the most important steps for ABW management. Scouting is most essential two to three weeks before WeevilTrak Stage 1 begins, because it can indicate when the first adulticide treatment should be applied.

A variety of techniques can be used for scouting, including:

- Soap flushes
- Soil core sampling
- Checking mower baskets
- Visual examination of the turf
- Pitfall traps
- Vacuum sampling with modified leaf blowers

**Visit WeevilTrak.com** to watch videos about how to scout for adult ABW activity.

*Application timing varies based on geography. Sign up for alerts at WeevilTrak.com for precise application timing. ** Application is recommended if there is a high population of adults with the presence of callow and mature adults.
WeevilTrak Blog

Managing ABW can be challenging because their development and activity can vary each year based on weather conditions and location. ABW can also reproduce quickly, resulting in three or four generations each season with larvae developing at different rates.

To help you better monitor ABW throughout the season, WeevilTrak entomologists and consultants provide timely updates all season on the WeevilTrak blog. You can also visit WeevilTrak.com to review a library of over 240 previous blogs from the WeevilTrak team.

Meet our WeevilTrak Researchers

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To register for a WeevilTrak account, which includes access to the blog and ABW alerts, visit WeevilTrak.com

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