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Subject: Fall Armyworm Alert - Please Read

Fall Armyworm Alert

Do you have new Sod?

Fall Armyworms (FAW) especially love freshly cut, newly laid sod, but they will consume anything to their liking. Please scout ALL sod daily.

Wanted!

DEAD

**Don't let your lawn fall prey to these small,
yet damaging insects.**

Last Seen: FAW have been seen in South Carolina this summer.

*If spotted, take immediate action. FAW will consume your lawn
when your back is turned. Arm yourself with the information
below.*

Reward: A safe lawn and secure investment.

Fall Armyworms love to eat your brand new sod but they don't originate there. Here are some facts about army worms:

- Armyworms are not indigenous to our area and cannot overwinter here. They are the larval form of a subtropical moth. Every summer they migrate here from the gulf coast and tropics.
- They are not a problem here every year. Some years they don't make it to our area, but when they do they can arrive as early as **June and can thrive until the first frost.**
- They get their name from their behavior of eating their way across lawns in an army-like fashion.
- They are particularly **attracted to new sod** and new sod is very vulnerable to damage.
- Armyworm moths lay their egg sacs on homes, fencing, bushes, etc., but rarely do they lay eggs in grass.
- Armyworms do all their damage to lawns when they are in the caterpillar stage.

[Info on Fall Armyworms on Super-Sod's Blog](#)

How to Protect Your Lawn

- Scout daily!
- There is no "over the counter" preventative treatment available to homeowners for armyworms in the egg or moth stages. However, *insecticide is available to homeowners for **treating when they're in the caterpillar stage.***
- When you see a sign of caterpillars (pictured above), treat your lawn immediately because they can do terrible damage within 24 hours.

How do I know if I have armyworms?

- If your sod has become discolored or looks like it has been exposed to frost. The damage often begins on the edge of the lawn and moves across.
- A large number of birds in a turf area may be a sign of

- armyworms since they are an excellent food source for birds.
- **Test for armyworms** with a soap flush:

Soap Flush Test for Pests

A soap flush is a mixture of 3 tablespoons of liquid dish soap with 1 gallon of water. We find that lemon-scented dish soap is the most effective. Pour the mixture into a 3' x 3' area and watch the action. The soap will agitate the caterpillars' skin and they will come to the surface - you can see them and then you will know to treat for them immediately.

We recommend scouting for armyworms from July until the first good frost.

This test also works for many other destructive insects.

Treating for armyworms

- There are an abundance of insecticides available on the market that treat armyworm infestations.
- **Treat more than once** - Just because the armyworms have gone to pupae stage does not mean they are gone. They will mature, lay eggs, hatch, and infest your yard again. **Be vigilant** and treat multiple times according to the insecticide instructions in order to break the armyworm life cycle.
- If you live in an area prone to infestation, stock up on insecticide and **be prepared** to defend your yard with treatment when necessary.
- Make sure to read all insecticide instructions carefully and apply at the application rate recommended on the product label for the pest you are targeting.

[More Armyworm Info from NC State TurfFiles](#)

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