



What's UP?

Merit 1-08

News from the Bayer Environmental Science Development Team

Grub Control - Choosing the right product

Over the past few years, several new grub control products have been introduced into the lawn care and golf course markets. These launches have been accompanied by claims of wonderful efficacy, broad spectrum, and low use rates. It is not surprising that professional turfgrass managers may consider trying these new products. But before choosing a product for grub control, one should consider the following:

What does the research data really say?

There's no doubt that in recent university trials the performance of these new products against white grub larvae has been good. But the efficacy of Merit® insecticide in these trials also is outstanding, particularly if you examine ALL the trial data, and not just the bits that appear in promotional literature.



White Grub

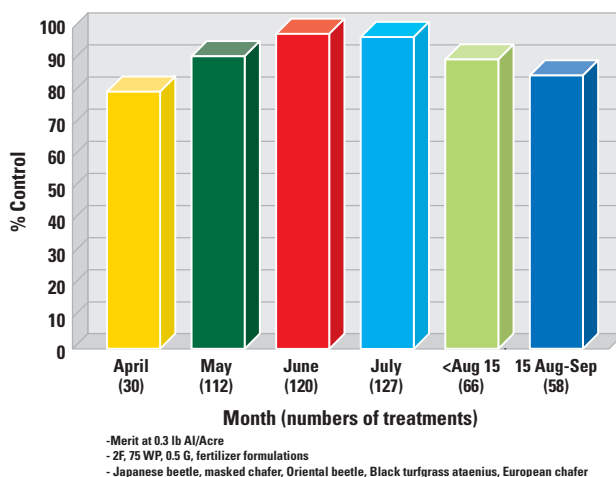


Japanese Beetle

No other product has been tested as extensively as Merit by university researchers. Since 1994 more than 150 independent trials have been conducted with Merit. The trials have been done across the entire U.S., in soils ranging from sand to clay, in plots where thatch can be an inch thick, and in tests where irrigation is delayed for days

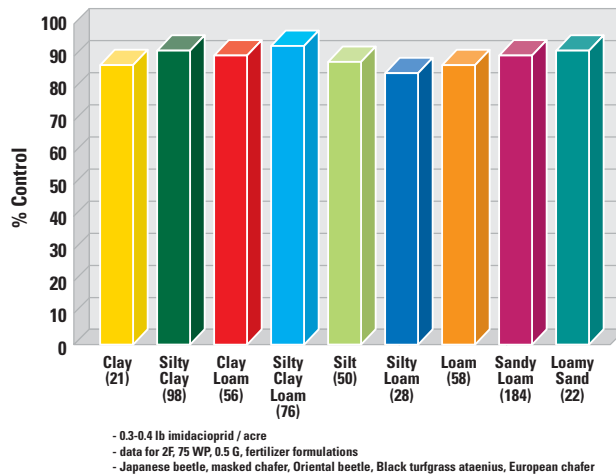
or even weeks after application. The data clearly show that Merit, when applied as a spray or as a clay or fertilizer granule, works under a wide variety of soil types and environmental conditions, with an application window that ranges from May through August.

Merit vs. White Grub Larvae, Effect of Timing of Application (University Trials, 1994-2006)



A summary of university research trials conducted between 1994 and 2006 shows percent of white grub larvae control with Merit insecticide by month of application.

Merit vs. White Grub Larvae, Effect of Soil Type (1994-2007) (number of data points)



A summary of university trials conducted between 1994 and 2007 shows the effect of soil type on Merit applications.

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Does the product offer proven performance?

In research trials, products are tested under optimum conditions. The products are precisely applied to small plots, the treatments are immediately watered-in to ensure the transfer of the active ingredient to the soil, and the environmental conditions are uniform and usually designed to maximize performance. In the real world, conditions are seldom perfect, and a grub-control product must perform even under less-than-ideal situations. Since its introduction in 1994, Merit has provided turfgrass managers with consistent and reliable white grub control on all turf and soil types, and under extreme environmental conditions.

Does the product work when applied as a fertilizer granule?

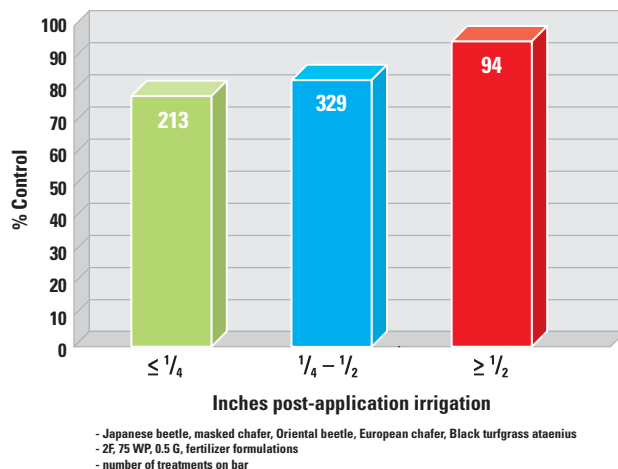
Fertilizer formulations of Merit have been tested in over 50 university research trials, with the same level of efficacy as seen with conventional granular and sprayable formulations. In addition, Merit has been commercially formulated on dozens of different fertilizer products for 12 years, with no loss of performance under real-world conditions.

What insects are present, and what exactly do I need to control?

In addition to stellar activity against white grub larvae, Merit offers good control of two of the most commonly occurring surface-feeding pests of lawns and golf courses – mole crickets and billbugs. Merit also offers premium control of a much broader spectrum of insect pests of ornamentals than any competitive turfgrass insecticide. For professionals who manage trees and shrubs as well as turf, Merit is the one product that fulfills both needs.

It is true that some of the newer products do offer broader spectrum control of surface feeders.

Merit vs. White Grub Larvae, Effect of Irrigation (University Trials, 1995-2007)



A summary of research trials between 1995 and 2007 shows the effect of irrigation on white grub larvae control with Merit insecticide.

However, outbreaks of most of these surface feeders are sporadic. And if surface-feeding insect pests are truly a concern, consider Allectus® insecticide. Allectus contains the same grub-control active ingredient as Merit, and also provides unrivaled control of ALL surface-feeding pests of lawns and golf courses.

In all the excitement of the recent new product introductions, it's easy to see why technically savvy turfgrass professionals consider trying new technology. But if one examines all the research data, the years of proven performance in the field, and the overall cost/efficacy of all the available products, the value of Merit, the technology that revolutionized insect pest management in turfgrass, is once again apparent.

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