

# Technical Bulletin

## Fall 2010

### Hunting Billbugs

**Symptoms:** Although most injury to date has been observed during spring green-up, we suspect that a general loss of color during late fall may also be symptomatic. More detailed information can be found on numerous university extension websites.

**Diagnosis:** When inspecting areas in your turf, look for both adult and larval forms. Mature billbug larvae (white grubs) are white with a tan head capsule (see Figure 1). These mature grubs and the adult forms (black, weevil-like appearance) measure about 3/8" long (see Figure 2).



**Figure 1 - Mature Billbug Larva**



**Figure 2 - Adult Billbug**

**Treatment:** Through field trials, research and producer experiences, Sod Solutions has determined that the most effective control regimen is comprised of monitoring and preventative/curative insecticide applications. As such, Sod Solutions strongly recommends **all** licensees begin/continue ongoing monitoring activities; i.e. once per week (active growing season) or once per month (dormant season) visual inspections of all production fields. When applying insecticide, choose your chemistries based on the relative density of your population (larval, adult or both). Adults are more easily controlled with contact insecticides with active ingredients such as bifenthrin, chlorpyrifos and carbaryl. These products are the most popular for control in turf production.

When grub populations are high, imidacloprid has proven to be effective and carries our highest recommendation. Licensees who have regularly used imidacloprid have reported few ongoing problems. When populations are mixed, it is recommended that tank mixes be made with imidacloprid and one of the compatible contact products listed above.

As always, follow the label.

*Please remember that contact insecticides work better on adults and are not overly effective on the larval form. Understanding your relative population densities will provide for maximum effect and mitigate ongoing issues that result from mis-targeted treatments.*

**Production Considerations:** If you suspect you have a billbug issue or would like to obtain more specific information on monitoring techniques, please contact Joel Lane, Sod Solutions Field/Technical Rep at 904.631.4343.

Seasonal information varies from region to region. Contact your local extension agent for billbug data in your area. The EMPIRE name and logo are registered trademarks of Sod Solutions, Inc. The Sod Solutions name and logos are trademarks of Sod Solutions, Inc.