

PEST OF THE season

Spring grass grub

Larvae of the common brown beetle *Costelytra zealandica* are usually expected to cause problems in autumn, and that is when most farmers take control measures. But this year both 2nd year grass grub and late-feeding 1-year grass grub have been reported in high numbers.

Late-feeding larvae are already active near the soil surface.

Second-year larvae are left over from last season. They are usually the smallest larvae that cannot complete their lifecycle in 1 year, and they typically are active from late October to January.

Both types can cause serious damage through spring, because farmers are not prepared for them at this time of year.

The most likely cause for unusual spring grass grub activity is a combination of high populations last year, and a dry late summer followed by a cold autumn and winter.

New grass, cereal crops and brassicas are all at risk in affected areas.

If there is any doubt, encourage customers to monitor paddocks closely and apply appropriate insecticide treatment promptly

Where new permanent pasture is being sown, controlled release **SuSCon® Green** granules can be applied at drilling for up to three years' protection from grass grub.

Diazinon 20G provides 6-8 weeks protection, and can be applied down the spout at sowing for brassicas and cereals.

For more information, or a brochure, contact Nufarm 0800 683 276.

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