

Greenbugs overwinter in the egg stage in the South. As populations start to build in early spring, greenbugs are carried north into Wisconsin by winds. While some greenbugs may overwinter in Wisconsin, the majority of the population migrates into the state each summer.

During spring and summer, greenbug females can produce offspring without mating. Unlike those females that lay overwintering eggs in the fall, the spring and summer females give birth to living young, almost all of which are females. Under optimum growing conditions of about 75°F, newborn greenbugs can be fully mature and produce their own offspring in 7–10 days. There are several generations each year, and populations can build up quite rapidly.

Control

Natural

Ladybird beetles and lacewings are specialized predators of aphids and are frequently seen on lawns infested with greenbugs. Other common turf insect predators—such as bigeyed bugs, ground beetles, and spiders—also prey on greenbugs. If a large number of natural predators are present, they frequently can suppress a greenbug outbreak. In other cases, they may be completely ineffective.

Sound pest management for turf insects includes an evaluation of the activities of natural predators.

Chemical

Chemical control is warranted where greenbug populations result in noticeable damage by mid-summer. If large populations are not detected until late summer or early fall, an insecticide application will still kill potential egg-laying females, reducing the chance for population carry-over to the following season.

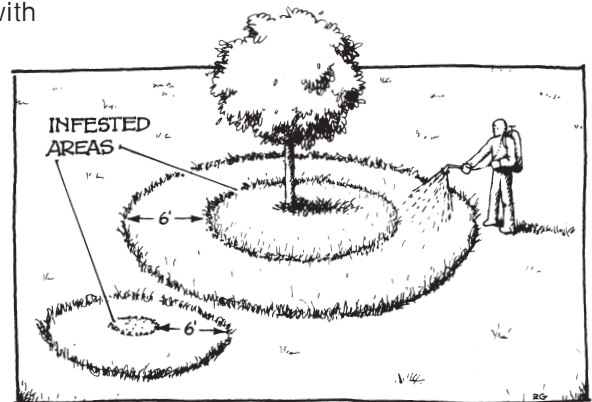
Registered materials for greenbug control include acephate (Orthene), chlorpyrifos (Dursban), and insecticidal soap. In some states, greenbugs have become resistant to certain broad-spectrum organophosphate insecticides. Although resistance has not been noted in Wisconsin, it could also occur here. Thus, read current insecticide labels or check with your county Extension office to determine up-to-date recommendations.

Liquid sprays including emulsifiable concentrates, wettable powders or soluble powders are all effective. Granular insecticides do not give good control of greenbug. Sprays should thoroughly cover the

grass blades. Do not mow or irrigate for 24–48 hours after application.

Greenbug infestations are often spotty. In such cases, treat only the infested areas rather than the entire lawn. This reduces the amount of insecticide used and will help preserve the natural predators in the rest of the lawn. Spot treatments should cover the entire infested area as well as a peripheral 6-foot band surrounding the infestation (see illustration).

References to products in this publication are for your convenience and are not an endorsement or criticism of one product over other similar products. You are responsible for using chemicals according to the manufacturer's current label directions. Follow directions exactly to protect the environment and people from chemical exposure.



Treatments should cover the entire infested area, as well as a peripheral 6-foot band around the infestation.

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