

# Grub damage Ontario identification + treatment calendar

Sodding Canada - Lawn Pest Guide 2026

## 10-step Ontario grub response sequence

- 1 Scout for brown patches starting in July**

Drought-resistant patches that stay brown after 5 days of watering are the early tell.
- 2 Do the confirmation test**

Cut a 1-foot square, roll it back, count C-shaped grubs in the top 2 inches.
- 3 Match count to threshold**

0 to 2: OK. 3 to 5: monitor. 6 to 10: treat. 10+: treat and plan repair.
- 4 Check for wildlife damage**

Skunks, raccoons, and birds digging the lawn is a secondary confirmation.
- 5 Order beneficial nematodes in early August**

Most garden centres need a week's lead time. Order before the treatment window opens.
- 6 Apply nematodes late August to mid September**

Evening application, moist soil, cloudy weather. Water in lightly after.
- 7 Apply second nematode dose 10 to 14 days later**

This is where single applications fail. The second dose doubles kill rate.
- 8 Overseed small damaged spots**

Rake, loosen top inch, sow seed, topdress, water daily for germination.
- 9 Relay sod on medium patches**

Cut out dead material, place new sod, water on new-sod schedule for 14 days.
- 10 Schedule fall aeration**

Aeration in October breaks up compaction and disrupts surviving grub habitat for next year.