



# Annual Bluegrass Weevil Optimum Control Strategy

The annual bluegrass weevil (ABW) is the most troublesome insect for golf course superintendents in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic U.S., and its impact continues to spread.

Identifying and suppressing overwintered adults and controlling the first and second generation of ABW early in the season are vital for avoiding multiple generations and overlapping life stages in summer and fall. The key to successful ABW control is properly timing early-season insecticide treatments. Missing an opportunity to control ABW early in the spring often means dealing with them all summer.

To help superintendents monitor this pest and time ABW control applications, Syngenta offers its annual WeevilTrak<sup>SM</sup> program. With its valuable researcher insights and digital ABW monitoring tools, WeevilTrak continues to be a trusted resource for superintendents. **The latest survey of subscribers<sup>1</sup> showed that:**

 **98%** of users found WeevilTrak email alerts valuable

 **88%** of users said WeevilTrak was their top tool for monitoring ABW followed by plant phenology and soap flushes

Through WeevilTrak, Syngenta works with university entomologists, turfgrass consultants and superintendents to track ABW all season by monitoring:

- Growing Degree Day (GDD) accumulations
- Timing of the first appearance of ABW adults
- Development of ABW larvae
- Phenological plant indicators

This research informs the proper application timing of each treatment in the WeevilTrak Optimum Control Strategy for season-long ABW management.

<sup>1</sup>Survey distributed by Syngenta to WeevilTrak subscribers in December 2019 with 251 total responses.

Visit us at [WeevilTrak.com](https://www.WeevilTrak.com)



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# Optimum Control Strategy

Insecticide program	First Generation		
	Stage 1: Overwintered Adults	Stage 2: Early Instar (inside of stem)	Stage 3: Asynchronous Larvae (inside and outside of the stem)
	Scimitar® GC 10 fl. oz./A	Acelepryn® 12 fl. oz./A	Ference® 12 fl. oz./A
Timing*	<p>Application is based on GDD and adult ABW activity.</p> <p>Early to mid-April</p> <p><b>Phenological indicator:</b> <i>Forsythia</i> half green half gold</p>	<p>Apply product at egg lay to ensure Acelepryn is in the transpiration stream prior to larvae feeding.</p> <p>Late April to early May</p> <p><b>Phenological indicator:</b> Dogwood in full bloom</p>	<p>Apply when the third stage larvae exit the stem to feed on the crown and surface roots.</p> <p>Mid-May to early June</p> <p><b>Phenological indicator:</b> <i>Rhododendron catawbiensis</i> in full bloom</p>
Notes	<p><b>This application:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduces overall ABW pressure by killing adults on contact as they move from overwintering sites into areas of highly managed annual bluegrass</li> <li>2. Prevents early egg-laying by overwintered ABW females</li> </ol>	<p><b>This application provides:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. About three weeks of critical control of early-stage ABW larvae</li> <li>2. Season-long control of white grubs</li> <li>3. Season-long control of caterpillars like armyworms, sod webworms and cutworms</li> </ol>	<p><b>This application:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provides systemic control of ABW at all larval stages (first through fifth instar)</li> <li>2. Controls asynchronous larval populations that may be present</li> </ol>

\*Application timing varies based on geography. **Sign up for alerts at [WeevilTrak.com](http://WeevilTrak.com) for precise application timing.**

## 24(c)s for Long Island:

Acelepryn is now available to golf course superintendents on Long Island under a Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration for control of white grubs and turf caterpillars.

Ference is now available on Long Island under a Section 24(c) Special Local Need registration for ABW control. Superintendents are required to have the Section 24(c) label in their possession and must use newly labeled product for applications.



Insecticide program	Second Generation			Third Generation
	Stage 4: Adults	Stage 5: Adults and Late Instar	Stage 6: Asynchronous larvae	Stage 7: 1-5 larvae (if needed)
	Scimitar GC 10 fl. oz./A	Provaunt® WDG 18 oz./A**	Ference 12 fl. oz./A	Provaunt WDG 18 oz./A
Timing*	Application is based on the presence of adults. Mid- to late June	Apply 7 to 14 days after an adulticide. Late June to early July	Apply 14 to 21 days after Provaunt WDG. Late July to early Aug.	Apply 21 to 28 days after Ference. Late Aug. to early Sept.
Notes	As adults reproduce, ABW populations usually become asynchronous, meaning that all life stages are present at the same time and there often is no single dominant stage.	<b>This application:</b> 1. Targets early third-instar larvae as they emerge from the stem and move to feed on the crown of the plant. 2. Provides two to three weeks of residual control, which will strengthen the management program for the second generation larvae. 3. Should be watered-in with .05 - .10" of water immediately after application.	<b>This application:</b> 1. Provides systemic control of ABW at <b>all larval stages</b> (first through fifth instar). 2. Controls asynchronous larval populations that may be present.	n/a

\*Application timing varies based on geography. **Sign up for alerts at WeevilTrak.com for precise application timing.**


\*\* Application is recommended if there is a high population of adults with the presence of callow and mature adults.

## The Importance of Scouting

In addition to properly timing applications, adult scouting is one of the most important steps for ABW management. Scouting is most essential two to three weeks before WeevilTrak Stage 1 begins, because it can indicate when the first adulticide treatment should be applied.

**A variety of techniques can be used for scouting, including:**

- Soap flushes
- Visual examination of the turf
- Soil core sampling
- Pitfall traps
- Checking mower baskets
- Vacuum sampling with modified leaf blowers



**Visit WeevilTrak.com** to watch videos about how to scout for adult ABW activity.

# WeevilTrak Blog

Managing ABW can be challenging because their development and activity can vary each year based on weather conditions and location. ABW can also reproduce quickly, resulting in three or four generations each season with larvae developing at different rates.

To help you better monitor ABW throughout the season, WeevilTrak entomologists and consultants provide timely updates all season on the WeevilTrak blog. You can also visit [WeevilTrak.com](http://WeevilTrak.com) to review a library of over 240 previous blogs from the WeevilTrak team.

## Meet our WeevilTrak Researchers



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To register for a WeevilTrak account, which includes access to the blog and ABW alerts, **visit [WeevilTrak.com](http://WeevilTrak.com)**



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