

Staff from the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (NBDAAF) have received multiple reports of dead patches within hay and pasture fields and even entire fields destroyed. Field visits revealed white grub feeding on roots just below the soil surface.



White grubs are white, C-shaped larvae that are the immature life stage of various scarab beetles, with June beetles and European chafer being two common species for the region. Fields with sandy or silty knolls and areas close to tree lines are higher risk. White grubs feed on the fibrous roots 3-5cm from the soil surface. They prefer grass root systems over legumes. If feeding is intense enough, it can result in the death of plants.

There are no insecticides that will control grub damage in established hay and pasture. The best option in severely damaged fields is to disturb the soil with tillage to expose the grubs to predators and then replant the field to a crop that has insecticide seed treatment (corn, soybean, cereals). Fields should be scouted again in the early fall to determine if control has been achieved or if further rotation is necessary.

If you are noticing damage to your fields or for more information, please contact staff from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.

Contact information for staff can be found in the links below.

[Livestock Sector Development \(Branch\)](#)

[Crop Sector Development \(Branch\)](#)

[Sector Development - Potato \(Branch\)](#)

Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries / Agriculture, Aquaculture et Pêches

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