

Identifying Pasture Pests

Several different pests can cause damage to pastures. Correct identification is essential to make control measures effective and economic.

Generally it is the number of insects or other invertebrates that make a pest. Many 'pests', including root feeders like grass grub, are beneficial in low numbers. It is vital that farmers know how to monitor numbers and pest damage.

Season	Symptoms	Possible Cause
Autumn	Grass pulling Loss of clover (grass dominance) Loss of grasses (clover dominance) Plant death (grasses) Tiller death in grasses Bare patches in grass with castings Bare patches in grass without castings Clover leaves going white Poor persistence of clover	Grass grub Grass grub Black beetle Black beetle Argentine stem weevil Tasmanian grass grub Porina Black field cricket Clover flea Nematodes Whitefringed weevil
Winter	Grass pulling Loss of clover (grass dominance) Bare patches in grass with castings Clover leaves going white Poor persistence of clover	Grass grub Grass grub Tasmanian grass grub Porina Clover flea Nematodes
Spring	Loss of grasses (clover dominance) Plant death (grasses) Tiller death in grasses Feeding damage on clover Loss of undersown species	Grass grub Black beetle Argentine stem weevil Slug Slug
Summer	Bare patches in grass without castings Clover leaves wilting	Black field cricket Aphid



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