

Photo: Todd Murray



# European Chafer

## What Is It?

The European chafer (*Amphimallon majale*) is a beetle that feeds on grass roots while in its larval (grub) phase, killing the grass and leaving visible dead patches. Grubs feed on grass in fall and spring. Most of the damage is caused in spring just before pupation, the transition from grub to adult. In summer, the adult beetles swarm at sunset to reproduce before laying their eggs and starting the cycle over again. The adult beetles do not eat, bite, or sting; it is primarily the grubs that are harmful.



European chafer larvae. Photo: Washington State Department of Agriculture

## Is It Here Yet?

Yes. In 2015, the European chafer was found in SeaTac.

## Why Should I Care?

The European chafer can destroy turf and could cause extensive damage to homeowners' lawns if they become established in Washington. They also may feed on the roots of crops, which could be costly to the agriculture industry.



European chafer adult. Photo: Washington State Department of Agriculture.

## What Are Its Characteristics?

- Adults are about 1/2 inch long, brick red in color.
- Larvae are 1/4 to 1 inch long, dark brown head, C-shaped body with noticeable legs.

 Report Sightings



[Invasivespecies.wa.gov](http://Invasivespecies.wa.gov)

## How Can We Stop It?

Irrigated lawns have shown resistance to damage in the Midwest and on the East Coast. Contact the local master gardener or Washington State University Extension Office for recommendations.

## What Should I Do If I Find One?

Report immediately via the WA Invasives mobile app or reporting web form at <https://invasivespecies.wa.gov/report-a-sighting/>.



European chafer larvae. Photo: Washington State Department of Agriculture.