
TO: CITY MANAGER **DATE:** 2015 May 15

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING **FILE:** 33000 05

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN CHAFER

PURPOSE: To seek Council's approval on the proposed 2015 European Chafer Management Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the European Chafer Management Plan be approved as outlined in Section 2.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Environment Committee for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The European Chafer (*Rhizotrogus majalis*) is a non-native beetle that spends the majority of its life as a white grub (larva) in the soil. The grub form of the Chafer causes damage to turf grass in fall and spring when the grub feeds on turf roots. Secondary damage to lawns, boulevards and medians is caused by birds, skunks, and raccoons digging through the turf to feed on the grubs. Since its introduction into Canada and more particularly in New Westminster in 2001, European Chafer has spread to a number of communities within this region. In response to discovering the European Chafer in the City in early 2000, the City developed a comprehensive education and outreach program and on two occasions sold a limited number of nematodes (biological treatment) to the residents to encourage sustainable landscape maintenance practices which align with the requirements of the City's pesticide use control bylaw. While the City's effort has had success in managing the pest, this past year has seen a rise in a number of public and private lands being impacted by European Chafer.

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval on the proposed 2015 European Chafer Management Plan.

To: City Manager
 From: Director Engineering
 Re: European Chafer

2015 May 15.....Page 2

2.0 EUROPEAN CHAFER MANAGEMENT PLAN (2015)

Building up on the City's European Chafer Program, the elements of the proposed European Chafer Management Plan for 2015 will include the following:

Phase	Activity	Comments
Education	Public	Continue to maintain and update the City Website to include information on European Chafer, re-landscaping options, biological treatment and upcoming sale of limited number of nematode packages to residents. Distribute European Chafer brochures at public events and at all civic facilities.
	Staff	Continue to educate City staff to identify and report on Chafer impacted public lands.
Surveillance and Biological Treatment	Public Lands	Continue to identify and map high value public lands that have been impacted by European Chafer. Undertake inventory of impacted public lands and prioritize areas for rehabilitation and treatment using nematodes.
	Private Lands	Record and verify, where appropriate and or necessary, complaints from residents and businesses regarding European Chafer impacts on private lands. Offer for sale at subsidized rate, <u>limited</u> number of nematode packages to Burnaby residents on a first come first serve basis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each residential property owner wanting to purchase nematode packages from the City will only be provided with up to two nematode packages* per property. Residential property owner will be required to pre-purchase nematode packages. Details regarding location and dates where nematode packages can be pre-purchased by Burnaby residents will be advertised in the local papers in early June.

To: City Manager
From: Director Engineering
Re: European Chafer

2015 May 15.....Page 3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nematode packages which have been pre-purchased will be made available for pick up by residents in mid-July in advance of the treatment time which is in late July. Details regarding the location and dates when the nematode packages can be picked up will be provided to the residents at the time of the pre-purchase. Water exemption permits, in accordance with the applicable bylaw, will be issued at the time of picking up nematode packages as nematode treatment requires pre and post watering of impacted turf area. Nematode packages will not be sold at the time of pick-up.
--	--	---

*Nematode Packages – Each package will contain 50 million natively-occurring nematodes (or microscopic roundworm) *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*, a “cruiser” species that actively infects and kills white grub, such as the European Chafer grubs. Treatment is most effective if done in late July, after the European Chafer eggs have hatched and when the young grubs are most vulnerable to nematode attack. Each package can treat up to 750 square feet of impacted area.

3.0 CONCLUSION

The City has a comprehensive program to respond to emerging issue of damaged lawns due to European Chafer activity. While the City’s effort has had success in managing the pest, this past year has seen a rise in a number of public and private lands being impacted by European Chafer. In response to this, staff recommends that Council approve the European Chafer Management Plan for 2015 as noted in Section 2 of this report.



Leon A. Goup P.Eng., MBA
Director Engineering

DD:cp

Copied to: Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Director Finance