

What Are These Little Brown Moths Buzzing Around My Lawn?



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BARTOW -- This is the time of the year when you will start to see little brown moths flying over your lawn. This is the sod webworm adult, which spends the day hiding in the grass and in nearby shrubs.

Clients often worry that these moths are laying eggs on their shrubs but they lay eggs mostly on St. Augustine grass at night. The eggs hatch in about a week and the larvae feed on the leaf blades at night and rest on the soil surface during the day. You can often see the webs they make on the grass in the morning dew; however, don't confuse sod webworm webs with spider webs.

Sod webworm-damaged areas of the lawn may take on a scalped appearance but these pests usually do not permanently injure St. Augustine grass. The larvae are easily controlled with a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide such as bifenthrin (Ortho Max). Young larvae may be controlled with a biological insecticide such as Thuricide.

Contributed by David Shibles, University of Florida IFAS Extension

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Images



sod webworm...

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