



# The Root to a Healthy Lawn

We know that watering and a steady fertilization program is the key to a thick, green lawn. But while the bright green grass may get all the attention, it's the humble *root system* that delivers all those vital nutrients. And should that root system become damaged... the rest of the lawn will follow. So, let's get to the bottom of what could threaten your root system and how we can protect it.



## Water Wisely

In our climate, lawns shouldn't go more than a few days without system irrigation or rain. When watering, the goal is to moisten the lawn's root zone, which makes up the first 6-8 inches of the soil.

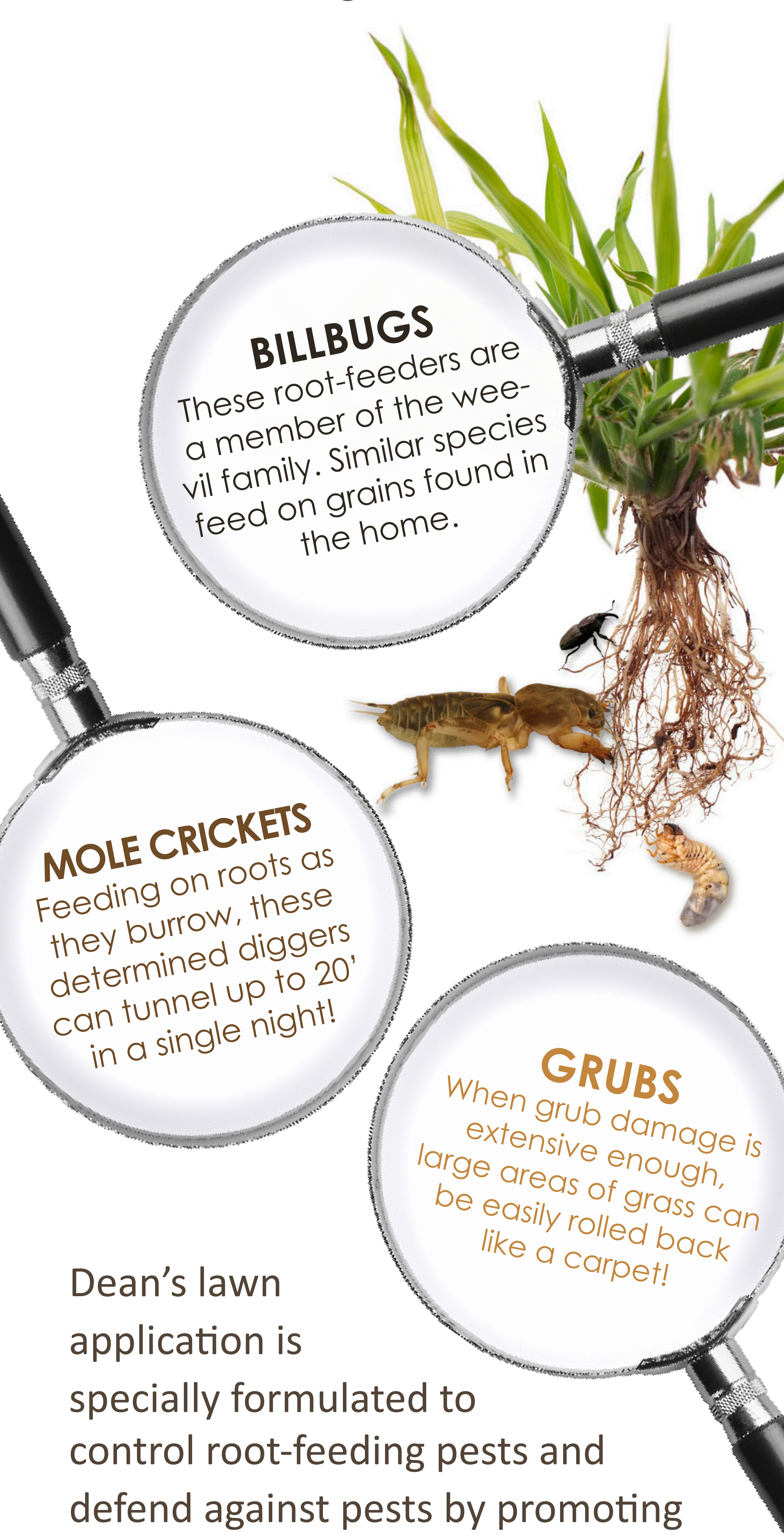
Because roots grow towards water, deep watering encourages deep root growth – and a strong, deep root system will better withstand drought and other stresses. Train roots to grow deeply by watering deeply and infrequently. A good rule of thumb is to apply about half-inch, three times per week in the summer (or 3/4 inch two times) and strictly as needed when it's below 65°.

An easy method to check your lawns hydration level is to simply take a walk across your lawn. If you've left distinct footprints on your lawn that don't quickly disappear, the blades are dehydrated and beginning to wilt. Also, if the overall color appears silvery green, it's time to water.

## Purge the Pests

Grubs, billbugs, and mole crickets burrow through lawns, snacking on the roots as they go. With damaged roots in their wake, the grass blades can no longer uptake food and water and will become malnourished.

If you have areas that aren't responding to proper irrigation and fertilization, root-feeding pests are likely the cause. If left unaddressed, large areas of your lawn can die completely, so be sure to be on the lookout for pests and their damage.



### **BILLBUGS**

These root-feeders are a member of the weevil family. Similar species feed on grains found in the home.

### **MOLE CRICKETS**

Feeding on roots as they burrow, these determined diggers can tunnel up to 20' in a single night!

### **GRUBS**

When grub damage is extensive enough, large areas of grass can be easily rolled back like a carpet!

Dean's lawn application is specially formulated to control root-feeding pests and defend against pests by promoting a healthy turf diet.

## Replenish the Roots

Like most organisms, turf grasses need water *and* feedings to stay in optimal health. But Florida soil has notoriously poor nutrient content – especially for imported grasses like St. Augustine and Zoysia.



A fertilization program will steadily build the nutrient content of your lawn, and a healthier lawn is better able to defend against pests and disease.

At Deans we understand that a healthy lawn starts from the bottom up. That’s why our carefully blended formula includes sulfate of potash to strengthen roots and a pH balancer to make soil conditions ideal for root uptake (the delivery of nutrients to the rest of the plant).

If you haven’t started a fertilization program, we hope you’ll call. It’s the perfect time of year to boost your root system for a healthy, beautiful lawn. Just tap on the sign below for more info!

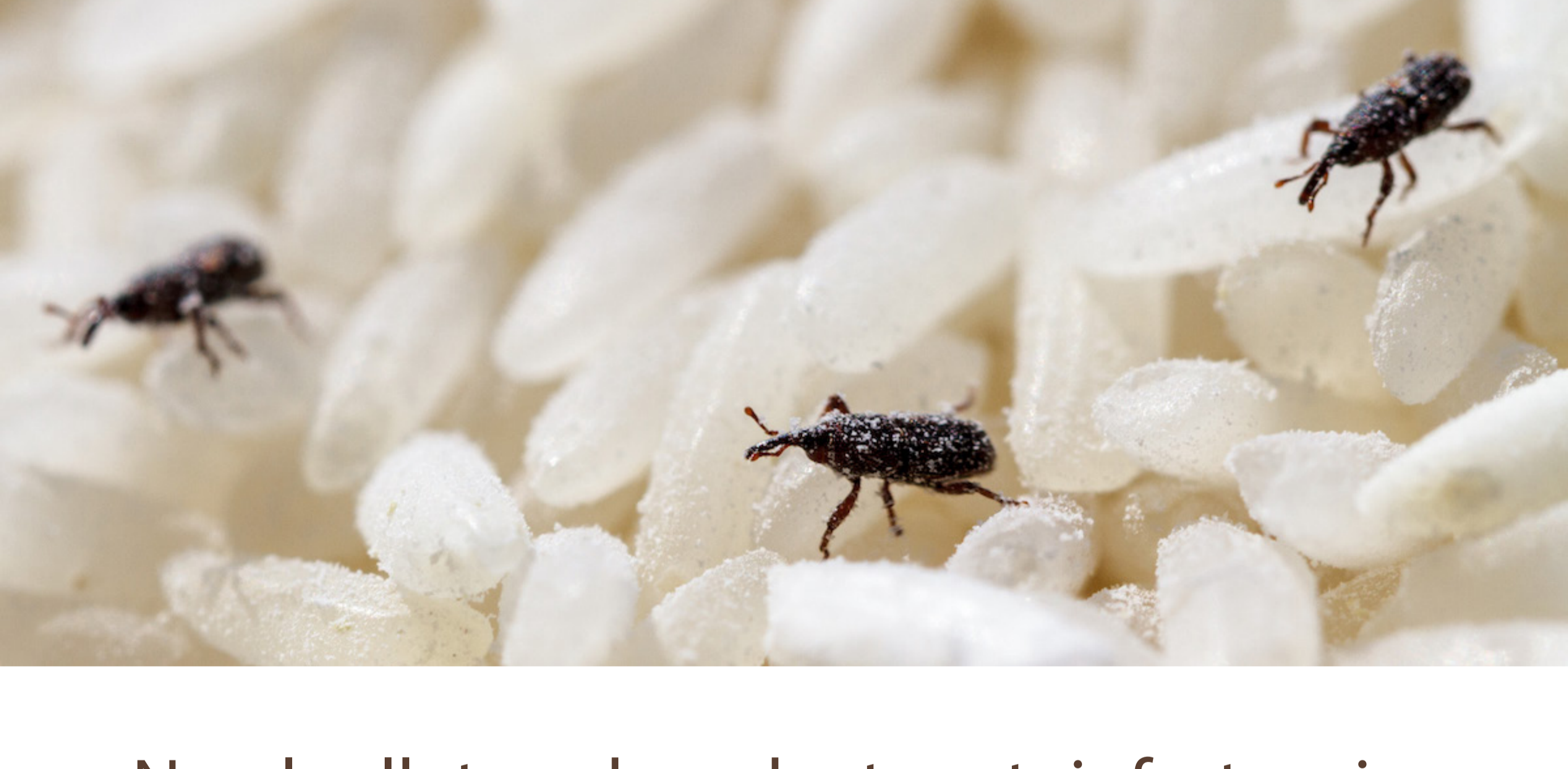


## DEANS Customer Questions

### “What are These Tiny Bugs in My Pantry?”

**Joe Tomasiello, ACE**  
Staff Associate Certified Entomologist

You may have what are classified as stored-product pests. The most common species are beetles like grain beetles and weevils (those little black ones that look like they have a tiny beak), but this group also includes moths, mites, and flies.



Nearly all stored product pests infest grain-based food, which is bad news for us, as nearly 80% of human food comes from grain.

But while you may notice these invaders in your kitchen pantry, these infestations often occur long before you even bring your groceries home – anywhere between the crop field, the grain mill, the warehouse, or even the retail store where you bought the item.

Once inside, infestations can spread to other areas, especially if food is unsealed. If you notice small beetles or moths around your kitchen, it may be time to call Deans.

## QUICK TIPS!



Clear, airtight containers help prevent infestation and allow you to see if pests have been brought inside.

Some of the most common products include pasta, cereal, rice, flour, spices, pet food, dried fruit, bird seed, and nuts. Once found, seal the item for identification by your Deans technician. This will help them determine what other areas may be infested and which control method will be most effective for you!