

Information and images courtesy of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <https://ifas.ufl.edu>

Tropical Sod Webworm (Herpetogramma phaeopteralis)

Description:

The Tropical Sod Webworm is the larval stage of a light tan-colored moth. The moths are often seen flying while walking through the lawn. The damage is not caused by the moth but by the larvae or caterpillar stage of the moth. Feeding at dusk, night and dawn, the caterpillars are less than an inch long, green with brown spots on each segment.

Damage:

The damage starts quickly with areas of the lawn containing blades of grass with ragged tips appearing. As the damage spreads, sections of the lawn with thin and brown patchy areas will form. The damage appears quickly and can spread rapidly if not treated.

What will Turf Science Do?

Sod webworms can be suppressed with the proper application of products formulated for the suppression and control of sod webworms. Turf Science applies products to suppress and control sod webworms in the larval or caterpillar along with supplying the proper nutrients to keep your lawn healthy and strong.

What can I do as a homeowner?

It is possible for a healthy lawn to recover from sod webworm damage. In order to keep your lawn healthy, make sure when you mow to cut no more than 1/3 of the blade length and water your lawn according to the season and your lawn's needs. The less a lawn is stressed, the better it can fight off the damage of sod webworms.



Turf Science