

PASTURE PEST TIMELINE

Corbies, winter corbies and blackheaded cockchafers are important pasture pests, that live below ground, but surface to feed on green pasture. They can rapidly degrade improved pastures, with ryegrass being most susceptible. Grub and caterpillar activity creates bare areas and shifts pasture to less desirable weedy composition. Grubs are selective grazers too. They are a particular risk to establishing pastures. Sowing more tolerant, robust pasture grass species like phalaris and cocksfoot is desirable in areas prone to pest outbreaks. Look for pest activity and control in susceptible pastures if warranted. New pastures are a priority. Follow label guidelines for effective control. The grubs need to eat the treated leaves. The chemical needs to be still on the leaves. Established pastures, comprising tolerant species, can withstand pest attack. Equally, pest attack is not everywhere, everytime.

Pest	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Winter Corbie	Brown Moth		Dark Grey Caterpillar			●	●	●	●	●		Brown Pupa
						Main Pasture Damage						
Corbie	Brown Pupa		Brown Moth			Dark Grey Caterpillar			●	●	●	●
						Main Pasture Damage						
Black headed Cockchafer	Black Beetle			White Grub	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	White Pupa
						Main Pasture Damage						
What you see and when												
Winter Corbie and Corbie						Thinning of pasture. Bare patches. Patches of dead grass. Holes and feeding trails covered by dead pasture and soil glued together with silk.						
Black Headed Cockchafer					Small mounds of soil in areas of thinning pasture and increasing bare							
What you can do	Be alert. Observe where dusk egg laying flights occur. Dig spade squares and count caterpillars and grubs in May-June and Aug-Sept. More than 2 caterpillars, or 6 grubs, per spade square is a risk. Plan to use more tolerant pasture species, phalaris and cocksfoot in new pastures where corbies and cockchafers are a problem. Check new sown pastures. These are most vulnerable.					Look! Assess... Spray in late May to control both corbie and black-heads	Last chance to spray black-heads		Last chance to spray winter corbie		Last chance to spray corbie	