Bermudagrass Stem Maggot: What Management Strategies Can Be Employed?

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Management Strategies

Physical

Cultural

Integrated Pest Management

Biological

Chemical

Management Strategies

Strategy is contingent upon timing
• If signs of BSM damage occur late (~3 wk after prev. cutting/grazing), then harvest or graze as soon as possible.

Management Strategies

Strategy is contingent upon timing
• If signs of BSM damage occur when the bermudagrass is 6-8 in. tall, then clip (remove if possible) and employ chemical suppression technique.  
  • The grass is unlikely to grow out of this damage.  
  • Delayed action can rob yield from future growth.

Management Strategies

Chemical suppression technique requiring 2 applications:
• 1st App: 7-10 d after cutting
  • Apply a labeled rate of an insecticide
    > Pyrethroids, such as Baythroid, Karate, Mustang Max, etc. ($)
    > Sevin, malathion, Tracer ($$)
    > Prevathon ($$$)
• 2nd App: repeat 7-10 d later (or 14-20 d after cutting)

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2014 Southeast Hay Convention
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Management Strategies

Chemical suppression technique requiring 2 applications:
• Total cost of both applications:
  • ~$2-3 of product/acre + ~$4-5 application cost/acre x 2
  • $12-18/acre

Source of Nutrition for Adults?

Leafspot Disease and Bermudagrass Stem Maggot Damage

Future Research

• Life cycle and reproductive potential of BSM
  • Necessary to refine timing of suppression techniques
• Examination of systemic insecticides
  • To kill or repel the larvae
  • Create a “control” plot
• Determine most cost-effective strategies for managing and/or controlling BSM
  • Quantification of economic thresholds


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