

Pest Profile

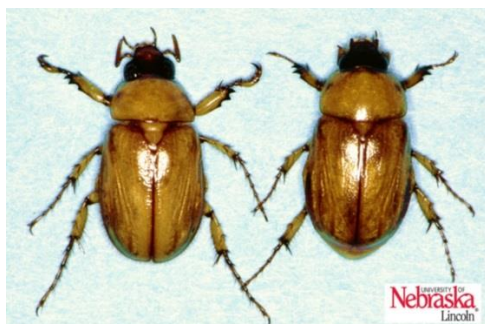


Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, UNL Entomology Extension

Common Name: Southern masked chafer

Scientific Name: *Cyclocephala lurida* Bland

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1.7 x 1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pearl white • ovoid
Larva/Nymph	3 – 25 (3 instars) 1.6 – 4.1 (head capsule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creamy white • c-shaped body • six jointed legs • the head is chestnut brown with a darker spot on the upper side where it attaches to the thorax • anal slit is diagonal and curved
Adult	11 – 14 x 6 – 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shiny reddish-brown body • dark chocolate-brown heads that shade to a lighter-brown clypeus (broad plate at the front of the head) • elytra of males are hairless except on the edges • males: the antennal club is shorter or equal to the combined length of the other antennal segments
Pupa (if applicable)	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • initially creamy white but gradually change to yellowish and then reddish-brown as they mature

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing mouthparts

Host plant/s: Grubs feed on the roots of pasture grasses and turfgrasses.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adults do not feed and thus are not considered pests. Larvae consume grass roots, which can result in severe damage to turfgrass, especially in late summer and fall when they reach the second and third instars. In spring, masked chafer grubs typically cause less damage, as the usually cooler and moister conditions make the grass more tolerant of their feeding activity. Damaged turf can be pulled up easily in large pieces. Problems are exacerbated when vertebrate predators dig up the turf in search of grubs. Southern masked chafer grubs also feed on organic matter in addition to grass roots.

Reference:

Brandenburg, R. L., & Villani, M. G. (1995). Handbook of turfgrass insect pests.

Gyawaly, S., Koppenhöfer, A. M., Wu, S., & Kuhar, T. P. (2016). Biology, ecology, and management of masked chafer (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) grubs in turfgrass. *Journal of Integrated Pest Management*, 7(1).