

A cross-section of a lawn showing green grass blades on top and a dark soil layer with roots extending downwards.

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 learn 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.

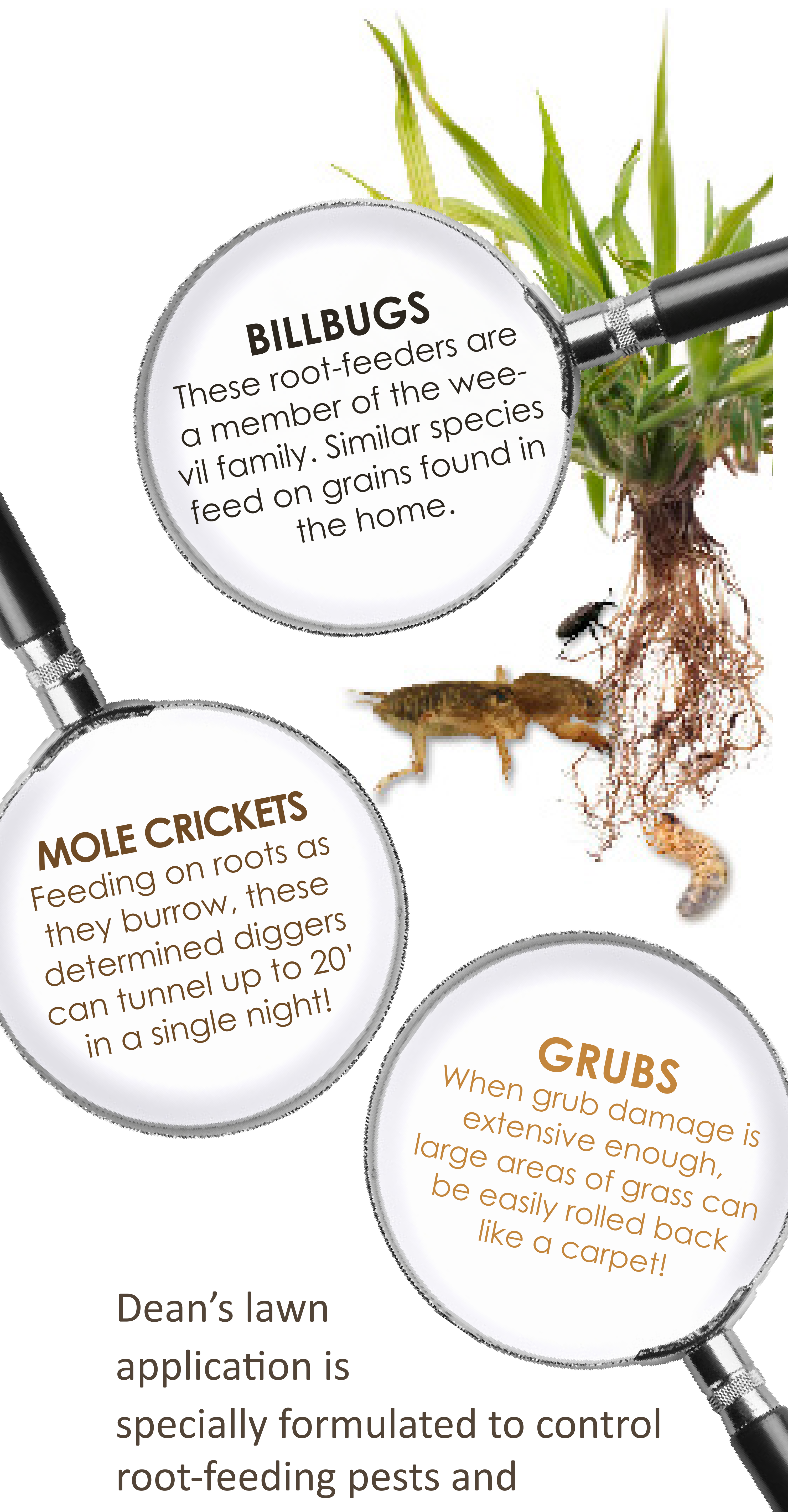
Because roots grow towards water, deep watering encourages deep root growth – and a strong, deep root system will better withstand drought and other stresses. Train roots to grow deeply by watering deeply and infrequently. A good rule of thumb is to apply about half-inch, three times per week in the 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 may be 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! 

Ask About
DEANS
Lawn & Shrub Program!