

Leather Jackets can destroy a lawn in weeks.

If your lawn is looking yellow with bare patches appearing you may have leather jackets damaging your lawn? Control is easy and inexpensive.

The female Crane Fly or **DADDY LONG LEGS** lay thousands of eggs in lawns during the summer. Hatching occurs between October and April. The larvae that emerge eat the shoots/roots of grass particularly if the grass is less than 4/5 years old. The roots and shoots of older grass are difficult for them to eat.

Leather Jackets look like maggots and are brown/grey in colour.

The tell tale signs is the appearance of browning grass, areas of weak growth and eventually bare areas with no grass just weeds and moss. The Larvae are very sensitive to direct sunlight so they only emerge in dark conditions.

Another tell tale sign is lots of bird activity on your lawn as the birds enjoy eating and picking the larvae out of the ground

Leather jackets can strip a healthy lawn of all of its grass within a few weeks if left untreated. They do not usually eat weed roots or moss !

The larvae will eventually turn into a crane fly adult emerging out of the turf during the summer. The adult do not live for long they mate and lay eggs into the ground and the cycle starts again.

THE CURE is effective and inexpensive.

The larvae can be controlled with an application of a liquid insecticide that is sprayed onto the lawn and will kill 90 % of the larvae within 24 hours. The birds enjoy eating the dead larvae. The insecticide needs to be applied when the larvae are active usually during the months of Dec - April/ May. The liquid insecticide is not long lasting but relatively inexpensive and one or two applications per year is usually enough to control the larvae. Much cheaper than a new lawn!

Remember

Proper lawn care and using the correct products to control insect pests and diseases will help to ensure your lawn stays green and healthy.

**If you have any doubts do not hesitate to call
Green Mile Lawn Care on 01252 313305 contact via our website [www. greenmilelawncare.co.uk](http://www.greenmilelawncare.co.uk)
for a free survey.**