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## Continued from page 13

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turf managers should realize that some individuals do show pyrethroid (bifenthrin) skin sensitivity. The neonicotinoid insecticides used for grub control have very low mammalian toxicity while being very effective grubicides. During dry weather the turf should be irrigated prior to treatment to help the insecticide penetrate grass blades and dry thatch.

Armyworms, which are caterpillars of moths, are greenish when small, but become brown with several length wise stripes when fully grown at ½ inch. The adult is a mottled brownish-gray moth with a wingspan of nearly 1 ½ inches.

Irritant sampling with dish soap is particularly useful in detection and monitoring of armyworm, as well as mole crickets,





>> IMAGE 8: Irritant sampling, using dish soap mixed in water (top), and mature, final instar, fall armyworm (botom) collected in early September. Photos courtesy of Alec Kowalewski.

cutworms, or sod webworm infestations (Image 8). The soap irritates sensitive soil-inhabiting pests causing them to quickly come to the surface. When using this monitoring method mix one ounce liquid detergent per gallon of water and apply to one square yard. For best results apply insecticide in the early evening when caterpillars are actively feeding on turfgrass.

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