



NSW DEPARTMENT OF
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

Establishing pastures - Readers' Note

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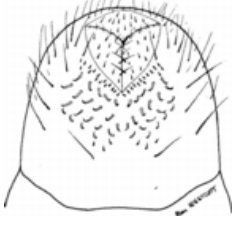

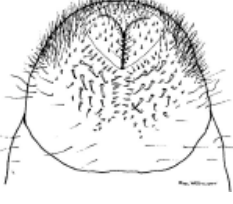

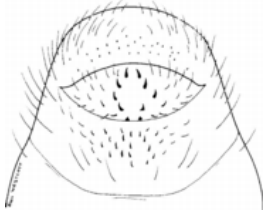

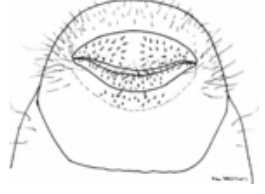
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/dairy-cattle/feed/publications/establishing-pastures>

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Beetle identification

Scarabaeid pests of coastal dairy pastures. Scarabs can cause serious damage to pastures as both adults and larvae. The four scarabaeid pests are shown below. They all have 1-year life cycles and 7 life stages: egg, 1st, 2nd and 3rd instar larvae, prepupa, pupa and adult. The larvae of each of the 4 look similar. The 3rd instar larvae are white or creamy white soft-bodied grubs about 25–35 mm long. When resting they are C-shaped. They have hard brown or yellowish brown head capsules, strong biting mouthparts and 3 pairs of legs. Second or 3rd instar larvae can be distinguished by the shape of the anal opening, the raster (the arrangement of spines and hairs on the underside of the last body segment) and some other features with a low-power ($\times 10$) hand lens). As the second table shows, the life cycles occur at different times of the year. Understanding when the grubs and beetles are active will help you develop management strategies to control them.

Name	Adult	3rd instar larvae	Other comments
Pruinose scarab (<i>Sericesthis geminata</i>)	 Length 11–16 mm	 Anal opening Y shaped	Problem in cooler highland pastures. Kills established pastures in winter.
Dusky pasture scarab (<i>Sericesthis nigrolineata</i>)	 Length 10–13 mm	 Anal opening Y shaped	Problem in cooler highland pastures. Kills established pastures in winter.
Argentinian scarab (<i>Cyclocephala signaticollis</i>)	 Length 13–15 mm	 Anal opening transverse	Problem in the Sydney area. Causes damage to pastures after African black beetle, April–June.
African black beetle (<i>Heteronychus arator</i>)	 Length 10–13 mm	 Anal opening transverse	Causes problems in maize crops (October–November) and early sown pastures (February). Mainly coastal.

Life cycles of scarabaeid pests of pastures (grey = active or present; black = most serious)

Beetle	Stage	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Pruinose scarab and dusky pasture scarab	Adult												
	Egg												
	Larva												
	Prepupa												
	Pupa												
Argentinian scarab	Adult												
	Egg												
	Larva												
	Prepupa												
	Pupa												
African black beetle	Adult												
	Egg												
	Larva												
	Prepupa												
	Pupa												