

## LEATHERJACKETS

(*Tipula paludosa* Meigen and  
*T. oleracea*)

### Description

Leatherjackets, the larvae of marsh crane flies, have only been seen as pests in coastal nurseries. Adults fly in April and again in late summer and resemble large greyish-brown mosquitoes with bodies about 2.5 cm long, two wings and long spindly legs. The greyish coloured, legless larvae have tough leather-like skin, no distinctive head, and can reach 3 to 4 mm in length. Damage is done by larvae in late winter and spring, usually, but not exclusively, on transplants and bare-root stock. The damage consists of girdling just below the soil surface. Damaged stock appears off-coloured and dried out.

### Life Cycle

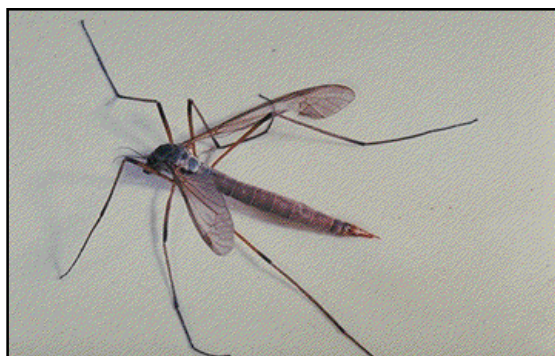
The pest completes one generation per year, passing through egg, larvae, pupae and adult stages. Adults lay eggs on the soil surface or at depth less than 1 cm in the fall, at which time they are most susceptible to discing. They hatch 11 to 15 days later and immediately begin feeding until the following spring. Favourable conditions include mild winter, cool summers, and high rainfall.

Grassy areas in and around susceptible areas should be removed or reduced to decrease populations of larvae.



Cranefly Larvae

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Marsh Crane fly

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