

# How to Get Rid of Crane Flies

## Crane Fly Control & Treatment Guide

By DoMyOwn staff

### OVERVIEW

#### Crane Fly Control Options

If you have done a thorough [inspection](#) and determined you have enough crane fly larvae for control measures, and your lawn is suffering from crane fly damage, control is likely necessary. Natural predators and insecticides are good options for getting rid of crane fly larva.

#### STEP 1 Encourage Natural Predators



If you have a moderate population of these pests in your turf, encouraging birds to your lawn, especially in winter and spring, can drastically cut down on populations.

- Set up a [bird feeder](#) with [bird food](#) that will attract birds in your area to your property.
- Offer shelter and nesting sites, creating a safe environment for birds to live.
- [Bird baths](#) can also be attractive, but make sure to change water often.

The more often birds visit your yard, the more likely they are to find and eat the larvae in your turf.

#### Products needed for Step 1



**Pennington Ultra Cedar  
Gazebo Bird Feeder** **\$43.14**  
**Out of Stock**

★★★★★ (2)

#### STEP 2 Insecticide Application

[Video Instructions](#)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QI7ZIXpOw4>

An insecticide application will kill the crane fly larvae in your turf. There are several products available labeled to control European crane fly larvae, in liquid or granular formulas, that can be applied to your turf.

Products containing [imidacloprid](#) and [pyrethroids](#) are popular ingredients. Make sure to follow all directions and read cautions and warnings carefully.

Optimal control will be achieved when applied in late summer or early fall, soon after eggs hatch. You can also apply these products in the spring, once temperatures begin to rise.

Always read the label for proper application timings and rates.

### Products needed for Step 2



### Crane Fly Treatment Infographic (Click to Enlarge)

## Crane Fly Treatment

Lawn Care Guide  
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### Signs of Crane Flies

Crane fly larvae cause brown patches, and thinning patches in your turf. This damage can appear as other types of lawn damage, like drought or other pests, so only diagnose based on visible evidence of larvae.

### Crane Fly Conditions:

Larvae hatch in the fall, and feed on your turf through the fall and then again in the spring.

### Treatment

**Detailed Treatment Guide:**  
Detailed guide with How-to Videos and other things you'll need for getting rid of Crane Flies.

- #### 1 Encourage natural predators

Birds can help to drastically cut back on crane fly larvae. Encourage birds to visit your lawn, especially in spring and fall, by offering plenty of food, shelter, and water.
- #### 2 Apply Insecticides

Applied in late summer or early fall, an insecticide containing imidacloprid or pyrethroids can control crane fly larvae. Check to make sure the product is labeled to control crane fly larvae.

**Tip** A thorough soil inspection is the best way to diagnose a crane fly larvae problem. Sample a few suspicious areas of turf, and if the average number of larvae you find is around 25, begin treatment.

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