When Scotts LawnService decided to incorporate Arena® Insecticide into its curative white grub control program, Corey Pangborn expected a few hiccups as part of the adoption process.

“Typically, when you roll out a product to 80-plus locations, you’ll have questions from the field about the effectiveness of the product,” said Pangborn, technical services specialist for Marysville, Ohio–based Scotts LawnService.

“Everyone’s been completely satisfied with Arena at every one of our locations. It’s been a great fit for our curative grub control program and an extremely reliable product all around.”

— Corey Pangborn, technical services specialist, Scotts LawnService

Arena, from Valent Professional Products, offers lawn care operators (LCOs) superior and consistent curative control of white grubs, including European and Northern masked chafers and Japanese beetles. Available in two formulations, Arena delivers broad spectrum control of other tough soil- and surface-feeding insects, such as nuisance ants, billbugs and Southern chinch bugs.

Arena Matches Dylox®

Unlike competing products, Arena doesn’t need to be immediately watered in, thus saving you time and labor. It is also an excellent OP replacement: university research shows that Arena provides curative control comparable to Dylox while using 95 percent less active ingredient.

“From a management standpoint, Arena gives LCOs one product for effective preventive and curative white grub control,” said Todd Mayhew, field market development manager for Valent Professional Products. “Arena is also very effective without use restrictions, including a short re-entry interval.”

One of the most important aspects of effective curative grub control is limiting the destruction done to turf by foraging animals.

“Arena provides rapid control of grubs and other insects to virtually eliminate digging damage,” Mayhew said.

Fast Action Prevents Foraging Animals

In research by Dr. David Shetlar, professor of entomology at The Ohio State University, grubs in Arena- and Dylox-treated plots stopped feeding and were turning amber or brown—“a significant indication they were dying”—three days after treatment. Grubs treated with other products in the same study, on the other hand, only “maybe stopped feeding” by that time.

Dr. Shetlar noted 75–80 percent control and actual mortality five days after treatment in the Arena and Dylox plots—“which is good for a curative material”—whereas grubs in other trials did not begin dying until the seventh or 10th day, and, even then, only with 40–50 percent control.

“How do you get them to stop? The grubs have to be rotting—they have to be dead and turning brown,” Shetlar said. “If they’re still plump and juicy, the critters will find them. If you want to stop the critters from digging, you have to use Arena or Dylox.”

The Answer for Curative Grub Control

Ray Iacobucci, a Columbus, Ohio–based region technical manager for TruGreen, was impressed by the “phenomenal results” he saw from Arena at university turf field days. TruGreen started using Arena in its curative grub control program a few years ago and has not looked back.

“We’ve used Arena the last 3–4 years, and it has been a really good fit for us,” Iacobucci said. “All of our branches use it now as their go-to product for late-season grub control.”