

Chinch Bugs

They are often associated with hot dry sunny areas. The damage caused by this pest frequently goes unnoticed due to their small size and ability to blend in with thatch cover. Their damage is also masked and mistaken for drought stress during the hot summer months.

Signs of Damage

- The most obvious sign that your lawn has been attacked by chinch bugs is that even shortly after watering or rain, your grass looks as though it is wilting. There are conditions to this, however. This effect will usually stop wherever there is shade, for



example, as chinch bugs are particular to sunlight. The grass will be yellow as the bugs have sucked much of the juices from the grass. The patch may start in the middle of a large sunny patch of grass and spread over time.

Appearance

- Chinch bugs are small, winged insects. Each wing has a small, black triangle on it. While these bugs are typically around 1/8th of an inch, their size can vary up to nearly 1/4 of an inch. The oblong insects are often confused with other bugs. In particular they can easily be confused for big-eyed bugs, which are shorter and somewhat fatter.



Life Cycle

- Chinch bugs generally follow a very predictable life cycle. First the eggs are laid near the bottom of blades of wheat or grass. The eggs generally hatch after a week. It then takes six weeks for the insects to mature. During this process they will turn from red to either brown or gray. These insects will then lay their eggs on corn. This is the second of two generations that generally occur per year. The females will lay 30 eggs per day over a period of around three weeks. The cycle will then repeat.

