

Chinch Bugs



What is a Chinch Bug?

Chinch Bugs are sun loving insects that can cause major damage to grass. Chinch bugs are difficult to see because they range in size from a pinhead to 1/8 of an inch. The adults are black with a white band on them. The younger ones are a red to orange color, though the younger ones are really hard to see.



Damage and signs of activity?

Chinch bugs do their damage on the surface, attacking the stems and crowns of the grass leaf. Their damage is usually visible by brown or yellowing irregular patches in the lawn. They can be found in late May through the end of September. Chinch bugs love the heat of the summer and thrive in direct sun light.



How to control Chinch Bugs?

Lawns that are watered properly water (1-2 inches of water per week) will have the highest resistance to Chinch Bug damage and fastest recovery of any damage. Chinch Bugs will thrive in a lawn with heavy thatch. This is why it is important to keep the thatch level down with aeration every year, in addition to the other benefits of aeration. Additionally, planting the wrong type of grass, especially shade tolerant grasses (fine fescues) in full sun will increase the chances to be attacked by Chinch Bugs.

Part of the Brookside Lawn program is the treatment of turf damaging insects. For any customers on a 5 or 7 step program who does not skip applications, any turf damaging Chinch Bugs will be treated with an insecticide at no additional charge.



What to expect.

After treatment the Chinch Bugs will die within a 1-2 week time period. The treatment will not fix the damaged turf. Proper watering will encourage the turf to grow out the damage. Reseeding may be necessary in some cases.



One last consideration

Proper identification of Chinch Bugs is important. There are many beneficial insects in the lawn that can be mistaken for Chinch bugs and treated in error. Be careful not to blame insects that are good for the lawn for other problems, such as drought stress! Be a good steward of our world, through proper identification and treatment only as necessary!



(Enlarged to show detail)



Actual Size
of Adults

