Meehan's Brookside LAWN SERVICE

Chinch Bugs



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. Chinch bugs are common in Northeast Ohio lawns, especially in sunny, open areas.

What is a Chinch Bug?

Chinch bugs are a type of beetle. The adult tunnels into grass blades and actually lays their eggs inside the grass blades. As the eggs hatch, the larvae tunnel down the grass blade and damage the plant. This usually takes place during the month of May.



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 (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. Regular core aeration also helps keep the thatch level down with aeration which creates less compaction and allows the grass to be more drought tolerant.



Additional Prevention: Meehan's B.A.G. Program

For added protection, we offer **Meehan's B.A.G.** (Billbug, Armyworm and Grub) prevention program. This treatment is applied in the spring, before chinch bug activity begins, and helps eliminate the larvae as they begin feeding on your grass. It can greatly reduce or prevent damage and keep your lawn healthy all season long.



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