LAWN INSECTS

TITLE:	CHINCH BUG	
ORDER:	Hemiptera	
FAMILY:	Blissidge (formerly Lyggeidge)	
LATIN		
NAME:	Blissus leucopterus	
OVERALL DESC	CRIPTION (Lifecycle):	
Hairy chinch bugs, (Blissus leucopterus), are probably		
the most dest	ructive pest of home lawns. They are small	
(1/6 inch when mature) with piercing-sucking		
mouthparts that feed on the sap of grass plants and are		
found in the thatch area of turfgrass, feeding on the		
lower leaf sheath and crown area of the plants. The Hairy		
Chinch Bug is the most common Chinch Bug species		
found in the DMV. Adults are 1/6 inch long and black		
with white wings. The wings are folded flat over the body		
with a small tr	iangular black spot in the center area of	
the wings. Adu	Ilts may be long or short-winged. Young	
chinch bugs vary in appearance from adults. There are		
five instars or stages. The first two are red with a white		
band across th	e abdomen, the third and fourth are	
orange with wing pads beginning to form and the fifth		
instar is black	with more developed wing pads.	
ANTANNAE:	Brown, slightly thickened terminals	
	White folded on book along length of	
WINGS:	white, folded on back, along length of	
	abdomen, with small, black thangular	
	Spot on forewing margin	
LEGS: (numbor)	Six, reduish color	
	Diarcing mouth part all stages	
	Piercing mouth part, an stages	
	Chinch hugs profer to food on hluograss	
	and fescues and thrive in suppy areas and	
DAWAGE	lawns with thatch, damaging grass by	
	niercing plants with their peedle-like	
	mouth-parts and sucking plant juices. In	
	the early stages of chinch bug damage	
	grass will begin to vellow Next grass will	
	turn brown and die As the grass dies	
	chinch hugs will move to the perimeter of	
	the dead grass causing dead natches of	
	grass to spread outward In summer	
	eggs hatch into young nymphs, which do	
	the greatest amount of damage, usually	



Source: University of Wisconsin



Source: Utah State University



Source: Clemson University

TYPES OF	(cont'd) first observed in lune: vellowish areas soon become dead natches: in warm
	weather turf can be damaged quickly as the bug negulation multiplies. New adults
DAIVIAGE	weather, turi can be damaged quickly as the bug population multiplies. New adults
(cont'd)	appear in July.
MESSAGE TO	Rainy weather hinders chinch bug development, so damage is less likely to occur
HOMEOWNER	during wet periods. Expect more turf damage when a second generation of chinch
	bug appears in August.
CULTURAL	In general, perennial ryegrasses, fine fescues, and tall fescues with endophytes are
CONTROL	highly resistant to this pest. Lawns damaged by chinch bugs should be reseeded
	with endophytic turf.
	Several predators, especially the Big-eyed bugs, <i>Geocoris</i> spp., are noted to kill large
	numbers of chinch bugs. (Big-eyed bugs are often mistaken for chinch bugs because
	of their similarity in size and shape, however.)
BIOLOGICAL	Recent research suggests the white fungus disease of insects, Beauveria bassiana,
CONTROL	has a greater impact on chinch bugs when the turf enters into summer dormancy;
	so allowing the turf to go into summer dormancy during hot and dry weather should
	decrease hairy chinch bug populations.
CHEMICAL	Pyrethroid insecticides labeled for chinch bug control have provided the fastest
CONTROL	knock-down of active populations (three to five days), but most of the neonicotinoid
	insecticides result in satisfactory control within seven to ten days.

SOURCES OF	Institute of Applied Agriculture, University of Maryland
INFORMATION	https://extension.umd.edu/resource/chinch-bug-lawn
	Paul Heller, Penn State University
	Chinch Bugs in Home Lawns
	https://extension.psu.edu/chinch-bugs-in-home-lawns
	Hairy Chinch Bug Fact Sheet. University of New Hampshire
	https://extension.unh.edu/resource/hairy-chinch-bug-fact-sheet
	Ohio State University Extension: Ohioline
	Chinch Bugs in Turfgrass
	https://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/HYG-2503-11
SPECIAL	
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