



HOW TO MANAGE CHINCH BUGS for a Truly Green Lawn

Tips for River Star Homes

Identification:

- * **Eggs** : Small, oval in shape, can be white or red (Look like white or red flakes on grass).
- * **Nymphs**: Wingless orange-red in color with a white band around the abdomen.
- * **Adults**: Black with white wings with triangular black spots on wings. Usually range between 1/6-1/5 of an inch.



- * **Diet**: Mainly feed on St. Augustine grass but will also eat Bermuda grass, Bahia grass, Centipede grass, and Zoysi grass.

How the Chinch bug damages your lawn:

- * **Prevents water transport in grass**: The bugs inject a toxic substance into the base of the grass while removing sap.

Determining if you have a Chinch Bug infestation:

- * Look for yellow or brown patches that appear to be dead, heat-stressed, or drought-stressed.
- * In yellow-brown areas, part the grass and look for eggs or nymphs (flakes of red or white) as well as adults (black bugs with white wings).

Solutions:

- * **Solution 1: Just water option**: If your infestation is small (only 2-3 chinch bugs spotted), watering affected areas and surrounding areas throughout drought seasons can prevent the population from expanding.
- * **Solution 2: Vacuuming Option**: Use your Shop-Vac or workshop vacuum and vacuum up the insects in both the affected areas and surrounding areas, up to 2 feet out. Follow this with watering during the drought seasons and mowing no lower than 3 inches.
- * **Solution 3: Soap-Trap Option**: Mix 1 oz. of dish soap in 7 liters of water. Drench the affected areas of the lawn using a hose attachment or bucket. Place a flannel sheet over the treated area and let stand for 10-15 minutes. The insects will try to escape the soap by attaching to the sheet and get caught in the fabric. The bugs can then either be drowned in water or vacuumed up. Follow this with watering damaged areas during drought seasons and mowing no lower than 3 inches.

