

Chinch Bugs

During hot, dry summers chinch bug damage is commonly mistaken for heat stress. They look very similar, but if left unattended chinch bugs can damage the better part of your lawn very quickly. An easy way to tell the difference is when a drought stressed lawn is watered it will green up where chinch bugs damage will not recover without reseeding .

Knowing their life cycle is key to controlling these pests before damage occurs.

Chinch bug adults overwinter in the thatch layer of your lawn and become active when the daytime temperatures reach about 70 degrees F

There are several generations each year with the first generation usually maturing by mid-July.

The prefer bluegrass and ryegrass, so lawns with 50 percent or more of these grass types are more likely to have high populations.

Their damage is noticeable when patches of your lawn begin to turn yellow then brown.

Once damage is present the best way to repair your lawn is with an aeration and overseeding with chinch bug resistant grass types.

