

## Chinch Bug

Chinch bugs are small insects that feed on turfgrass. Damage is usually first noticed during hot, dry weather when irregular patches of grass begin to turn yellow, then straw colored. The patches increase in size in spite of watering.

The immature insects are first bright orange, eventually changing to black. Adults are black and white. They spend the winter in lawn thatch and become active when temperatures reach 70F. The bugs feed on grass stems, blocking water and food movement so the leaves withers.



### Control

- Watering the grass helps drown immatures and encourages growth of fungi that kill the bugs. It will also help slightly damaged turf recover.
- Avoid planting perennial ryegrass and fine fescues that chinch bugs prefer.
- Use insecticides when populations reach damaging levels and chinch bugs are identified.

*Provided by*

[wimastergardener.org](http://wimastergardener.org)



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## Additional Resources

### Chinch Bug

- UW-Extension Publication A3237, *Turfgrass Disorder: Chinch Bug*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Turfgrass-Disorder-Chinch-Bug-P453.aspx>
- Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet HYG-2503-94, *Chinch Bugs in Turfgrass*, at <http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/pdf/2503.pdf>

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