



False chinch bugs

Nyssius species
Order Hemiptera, Family Lygaeidae; seed bugs
Native pests

Pest information: Turf grasses, blade sucking nymphs and adults.

Description: False chinch bugs are small gray bugs resembling true chinch bugs. They are more frequently encountered on herbaceous plants, although they can feed on turf when the preferred food is not available. False chinch bugs are approximately 5 mm long, brown, and generally found in dead areas of the turf. They can be distinguished from the true chinch bug by the absence of a conspicuous black triangle on the outer wing margin and by a head that is about the same width as the thorax (shoulder).

Life history: Populations are usually low and do not damage turf.

Overwintering: Adults in debris.

Damage symptoms: False chinch bugs suck the sap from blades and the damage appears as pale areas often with yellow streaking and chlorotic brown spots since the false chinch bug injects a toxin while feeding.

Monitoring: False chinch bugs can be distinguished from the true chinch bug by the absence of a conspicuous black triangle on the outer wing margin and by a head that is about the same width as the thorax (shoulder). No damage thresholds, as they are not a pest.

Cultural control: None

Chemical control: Control is not recommended.

Biological control: Carabid ground beetles, staphylinid rove beetles ants, spiders.

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: None

Conventional pesticides: None



False chinch bug adult. (W6)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



False chinch bug adult. (278)
Photo: Mark Ascerno



False chinch bug nymphs. (W7)
Photo: Whitney Cranshaw