



## Greenbugs or aphids

*Schizaphis graminum*

Order Hemiptera, Family Aphididae; aphids

Native pest

**Pest information:** Turfgrasses, blade sucking nymphs and adults.

**Description:** Greenbugs are aphids that can damage established turf. The insects are small and yellow to green, and they can be found by sweeping your hand over suspected areas.

**Life history:** Greenbugs are carried into the Midwest by southerly winds, so they can show up overnight. There are many generations in a summer.

**Overwintering:** Do not overwinter in Northern states.

**Damage symptoms:** Aphids suck the sap from blades and the damage appears as pale areas often with yellow streaking. Damage is almost always near areas of the lawn shaded by trees or shrubs. Bluegrass is a prime target for greenbug attacks.

**Monitoring:** Greenbugs are usually first found in late July or August. Look for yellow streaking on grass blades.

**Cultural control:** Maintain healthy grass by fertilizing in the spring and fall and watering during periods of drought.

**Chemical control:** Look for yellowing turf in June through August. Populations may persist into late fall. Treat at first signs of damage. Use a soap flush to detect nymphs. Do not use broad spectrum insecticides routinely, as they will do more harm than good and will kill the beneficial insects that live in the turf, which can cause pest outbreaks. Control is suggested when damaging greenbug populations are first noted, as they reproduce very quickly.

**Biological control:** Spiders are major predators of greenbugs. *Lysiphlebus testaceipes* (Braconidae) is an important parasitoid of the greenbug.

**Plant mortality risk:** Low

**Biorational pesticides:** None

**Conventional pesticides:** acephate, chlorpyrifos



Greenbugs or aphids on Kentucky bluegrass. (W8)

Photo: Whitney Cranshaw



Greenbug nymphs and adults. (280)

Photo: Mark Ascerno