

Bermudagrass Scale (*Odonaspis ruthae*)

Bermudagrass scale affects both common and hybrid bermudagrass. They are mostly contained to shady areas with excessive thatch. Scale resembles a white, clam shaped material on stems, nodes and crowns. Vital fluids are sucked from the turf, causing stunted growth and a yellow and brown appearance. Damage is often confused with disease or drought stress.



Picture: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300311.html>

Text: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300311.html>; <http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/aggieturf2/insect/bermudascale.html>

For more information on bermudagrass scale:

University of California – Bermudagrass Scale

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300311.html>

Texas A&M – Bermudagrass scale

<http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/aggieturf2/insect/bermudascale.html>

Billbugs

Bluegrass Billbug (*Sphenophorus parvulus*)

Hunting Billbug (*Sphenophorus venatus vestitus*)

Denver Billbug (*Sphenophorus cicatristriatus*)

Phoenician Billbug (*Sphenophorus phoeniciensis*)

There are four different billbug species that can be found across the United States. The bluegrass billbug affects cool season turfgrasses, the hunting billbug is most common in transition and southern turf areas, the Denver billbug is only in the Rocky Mountain region and northern Great Plains, and the Phoenician billbug is concentrated in southern California and Arizona. Billbug damage is commonly mistaken for drought dormancy, chinch bug or white grub damage, delayed spring greening, or disease damage. Billbug larvae burrow down grass stems and seed stalks to the crown of the plant. First, individual stems are killed, which can resemble dollar spot. Damage can eventually lead to death of larger clumps. Damage to bermudagrass can appear in the spring as areas that are slow to green up, or as dead patches.



Picture: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300411.html>

Text: Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests by Rick Brandenburg and Michael Villani

For more information on billbugs:

The Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet: Billbugs in Turfgrass
<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2502.html>

University of California IPM – Billbugs
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300411.html>

Utah State University – Billbugs
<http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/billbug07.pdf>

University of Maryland – Billbugs
http://iaa.umd.edu/umturf/insects/bluegrass_hunting_billbug.html