

Chinch Bugs

Hairy Chinch Bug (*Blissus leucopterus hirtus*)

Southern Chinch Bug (*Blissus insularis*)

Common Chinch Bug (*Blissus leucopterus leucopterus*)

The three types of chinch bugs that most commonly cause damage to turfgrass areas include the hairy chinch bug, southern chinch bug, and common chinch bug. The hairy chinch bug most commonly feeds on cool season turfgrasses in the northern and northeastern part of the United States.

The southern chinch bug most commonly feeds on St. Augustinegrass in the southern United States, but can also feed on other warm season grasses such as bermudagrass and centipedegrass.

The common chinch bug has been found along the east coast as well as the Midwest and feeds on both cool and warm season turfgrasses. Chinch bug infestations usually occur in turfgrass that has thick thatch and is exposed to full sunlight during hot, dry weather.

These insects attack the stems, stolons and crowns of grass plants, which cause injury to resemble drought damage.



Picture: <http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/bulletins/1-1766.html>

Text: [Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests](#) by Rick Brandenburg and Michael Villani

For more information on chinch bugs:

Ohio State University Extension Fact Sheet: Chinch Bugs in Turfgrass

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2503.html>

University of Florida – Southern Chinch Bug Management on St. Augustinegrass

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/LH036>

University of California – Southern Chinch Bug

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785301211.html>

University of Maryland – Chinch Bugs

http://iaa.umd.edu/umturf/Insects/Chinch_Bugs.html

Crane Fly (*Tipula paludosa*)

Crane flies have been found to feed on all turfgrass species. They are most damaging in their larval stage, when they are commonly known as “leatherjackets.” In their larval stage, the crane fly feeds on roots, crowns, leaves and stems. Damage appears as dying patches, but vigorously growing turf can withstand low to moderate infestations.



Crane fly larvae/leatherjackets



Adult crane fly

Pictures: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785301411.html>;

<http://www.dkimages.com/discover/DKIMAGES/Discover/Home/Animals/Invertebrates/Arthropods/Insects/Flies/Thread-horned-Flies/Crane-Flies/Larvae/Larvae-1.html>

Text: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785301411.html>

For more information on the crane fly:

University of California IPM – Crane Fly

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785301411.html>

Cornell University – European crane fly

<http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/factsheets/turfgrass/ecf.pdf>

New York Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey – European Crane Fly

<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/caps/pdf/European%20Crane%20Fly%20Pest%20Alert.pdf>

Cutworms

Black Cutworm (*Agrotis ipsilon*)

Bronzed Cutworm (*Nephelodes minians*)

Variegated Cutworm (*Peridroma saucia*)

The most common cutworms are the black cutworm, bronzed cutworm and variegated cutworm. Cutworms can be found all across the United States and feed on all common turfgrasses. These insects are subterranean pests and usually burrow into the ground or thatch and come out at night to feed on grass blades and shoots. Damage appears as circular dead spots or depressed areas.



Picture: <http://www.ento.okstate.edu/ddd/insects/cutworms.htm>

Text: [Handbook of Turfgrass Insect Pests](#) by Rick Brandenburg and Michael Villani

For more information on cutworms:

University of California IPM – Turfgrass Cutworms

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/r785300611.html>

Utah State University – Armyworms and cutworms in turfgrass

<http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/armyw-cutw-turf07.pdf>