

Information and images courtesy of the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. <https://ifas.ufl.edu>

## Southern Chinch Bug

(*Blissus insularis*)

### Description:

The Southern Chinch Bug is one of the most destructive insects found in Florida turf grasses. The adults are approximately 1/5 inch or less and have white wings with black spots. The wings can be long or short. (see the pictures to the right)

Young chinch bugs (nymphs) vary in color from yellow to red with a white band and black with a white band.

### Damage:

Southern chinch bugs will damage many turf grasses such as St. Augustine, Bermuda, Bahia, Zoysia, etc. Small patches of dead grass early in the season will progress to damage throughout the entire lawn. The adult and young chinch bugs feed on the fluids at the base of the grass stem. This weakens the blade of grass until it withers and turns a brown-yellow color.

### What will Turf Science Do?

Chinch bugs will not go away by themselves. Application of insecticides labeled for use against chinch bugs will best way to eradicate unwanted pests. Reapplication of the insecticide might be necessary in case of reinfestation from a neighboring lawn or hatching eggs. Turf Science applies products monthly to suppress chinch bugs and mitigate the damage they cause.

### What can I do as a homeowner?

Regular weekly mowing at the proper height recommended for your grass will help keep your lawn healthy and strong to aid in recovery in case of an insect infestation. Mowing along with proper irrigation will help control southern chinch bugs.

