

HAIRY CHINCH BUG

These small insects (3 to 5 mm long in the adult stage) damage your lawn by perforating the leaves and sucking out the sap. The areas that are affected turn yellow and then brown, but the dead grass remains firmly attached to the soil. Drought conditions cause the same kind of damage. They like poorly tended lawns with sandy and/or compacted soils, lack of moisture, and an excess of nitrogen.

ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS :

- aerate lawn to reduce compaction
- do not overfertilize
- do not cut grass shorter than 6cm
- top dress soil with organic matter to improve soil conditions
- reseed your lawn with endophyte enriched grass seed and/or mixes including clover
- remove thatch in fall
- Use a commercial vacuum on the damaged zone and for a 60 cm wide perimeter around it. If the infestation occurred the previous year, start vacuuming at the end of May in order to trap the females before they lay their eggs.

CHINCH BUG
DAMAGE:



CHINCH BUG AT VARIOUS LIFESTAGES



WHITE GRUBS

White grubs are the larvae of common June bugs, European chafers, and Japanese beetles. They are 1-4 cm long and are curved like the letter C. They live in the ground and feed on the turf roots. Damaged areas turn yellow or brown and lift off the ground surface easily, like a carpet. The damage is visible in the spring and fall. Animals, such as skunks, eat grubs and will dig holes in the turf to reach them.

ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS :

- Limit outdoor lighting during the egg laying period (June, July) since light attracts these insects.
- Aerating will kill some of the grubs, and reduce soil compaction.
- Hand pick or vacuum adult beetles (with commercial vacuum). For best results, collect in early morning.
- Rake/de-thatch your lawn or cultivate the soil thoroughly to expose any grubs to predators and the weather.
- Do not cut grass shorter than 6cm. Beetles prefer to lay eggs in closely cropped lawns.

