

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jessica Louque, Smithers Viscient, Bugwood.org

 licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).

Common Name: Large Sod Webworm or Greater Sod Webworm

Scientific Name: *Pediasia trisecta*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera; Crambidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tiny, oval-shaped - Have longitudinal ribbing on surface
Larva/Nymph	16-25 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beige, gray, light brown or greenish in color - Generally have spots on their abdomen - Have paired dorsal and lateral spots on each abdominal segment - The head is yellowish-brown, brown, or black in color
Adult	Wingspan: 23-33 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forewings are brown to pale yellowish-orange and light gray on the lower half - Hindwing is broader than forewing and grayish-white in color with whitish fringe - Wings are covered in checkered pattern scales - Wings are rolled around body when at rest - Have a “snout”
Pupa (if applicable)	10-13 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pupation occurs underground - Torpedo-shaped cocoon is made of silk mixed with bits of plants and soil - Tan to dark brown in color

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae have chewing mouthparts.

Host plant/s: Bluegrass, bentgrass, ryegrass, and fescues.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): All damage is done by larval feeding. Young larvae will be located within leaf folds at the base of the plant where they will feed on the leaf surface. As they mature they will move to the base of the plant where they will form a silken tube that they will retreat into during the hot summer days.

Larval feeding can occur on the upper root system, stems, and blades of grass. In large populated areas, the turfgrass will appear thin and ragged. Most turfgrass damage will occur during the hot summer months when turf growth slows and larval feeding is occurring primarily at night. If there is substantial damage to the turfgrass, death can occur.

References:

Cranshaw, W., & Shetlar, D. J. (2004). *Garden insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Koppenhöfer, A. M., & Buckley, R. J. (2010, March). *An Integrated Approach to Insect* [PDF]. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

McLeod, R. (2006, June 7). Species *Pediasia trisecta* - Sod Webworm - Hodges#5413. Retrieved February 8, 2016, from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/56270>