

# Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Western chinch bug, Buffalo grass chinch bug

**Scientific Name:** *Blissus occidus*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera: Blissidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.30 - 0.84	Elongate, tapered at one end and blunt at the other. White, changing to bright orange.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Instar: 0.9mm 5 <sup>th</sup> Instar: 2mm	1st Instar: bright red or orange with white or cream colored band across abdomen  2nd – 4 <sup>th</sup> Instars: Same pattern as 1 <sup>st</sup> instar, but color changes from orange to brown to black.  5 <sup>th</sup> Instar: Body is now black, wingpads are visible.
<b>Adult</b>	3.5mm	Adults are gray-black. Wings are white with black spot at the front-wing edge. Wingless versions are present most of the summer.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	NA	NA

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing-sucking mouth parts

**Host plant/s:** Most turf grass species.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** When adult and nymph chinch bugs feed, they inject an anticoagulant into the grass which blocks water uptake. Chinch bug damage mimics drought stress, and manifests as patches of turf that begin to yellow and turn brown. Patches continue to grow, turf in that area dies, and irrigation does not remedy the situation.

**References:**

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