



Understanding Chinch Bugs: What They Are And How to Protect Your Lawn

Recently, our landscaping team received a report of chinch bug activity affecting

areas of turf within our community. As part of our effort to keep residents informed and lawns healthy, we're providing this quick guide to help you understand what chinch bugs are, how they can damage your lawn, and what to expect in terms of

treatment and sod replacement.

What Are Chinch Bugs?

Chinch bugs are tiny insects that feed on grass by sucking the moisture from blades and injecting a toxin that causes the turf to turn yellow, then brown, and eventually die.

They're most active during hot, dry periods and tend to affect St. Augustine grass, which is commonly used in Florida landscapes.



How to Recognize a Chinch Bug Problem

- Patches of yellowing or dead grass that worsen quickly
- Damage that often starts near sidewalks, driveways, or curbs
- No improvement after watering or irrigation
- If inspected closely, tiny black and white or reddish insects may be found in the thatch near the base of the grass

Treatment and Control

Our landscaping vendor, BrightView, is trained to handle chinch bug infestations. If chinch bug damage is confirmed:

- A professional-grade insecticide will be applied to eliminate the infestation.
- Follow-up inspections are conducted to ensure the bugs are fully eradicated.
- Irrigation will be checked to confirm the lawn is receiving adequate water, which helps prevent reinfestation.

When to Replace the Sod

Sod will not be replaced until we are confident the chinch bugs are gone and the area is no longer at risk. Replanting too soon can lead to new sod being damaged by remaining insects.

Once treatment is successful:

- The area will be monitored for a recovery period (typically 2–3 weeks).
- If grass does not recover on its own, the Board will approve sod replacement where needed.
- New sod will be laid during optimal planting conditions to ensure successful rooting.

What Residents Should Do

- Do not attempt to treat the lawn yourself, as improper pesticide use may interfere with professional applications.



- If you suspect chinch bugs or see unusual lawn damage, please report it to the Association so BrightView can assess it.
- Refrain from adjusting irrigation timers or treating lawn areas without prior approval.



Larry Howell, Director
Palma Sola Trace HOA