



the thatch and runners. Lay it on a table or put it in a plastic bag and see if they crawl out. Next, gently pull off the leaves to see if the bugs are hiding where the grass blades come together at the base of the plant.

Campbell XaughnK            Though century plants take ages to bloom, they're worth the wait

If the chinch bugs are only causing damage in a small part of the yard, just apply spot treatments with granular or liquid insecticides. Synthetic pyrethroid insecticides are effective in control of chinch bugs, but most of them don't provide residual control. All the synthetic pyrethroid insecticides end in "thrin." These include bifenthrin (Ortho Max Bug-B-Gon or Hi-Yield Bug Blaster) or permethrin. Some of the products also are available mixed a systemic insecticide like imidacloprid that will help with longer control.

During the hot summer months, use slow-release fertilizers. Overfertilization with nitrogen can make chinch bugs worse. Water deeply about once or twice per week applying three-quarters to one inch of water each time. Water in the early morning if possible. Do your best to remove the thatch layer when it gets over an inch.

Chinch bugs like many insects have multiple generations per season. It is rare that you get them all when trying to control them, so don't be surprised if you see multiple outbreaks in a season. If this weather stays hot and dry, they will be a factor the rest of the summer and even into early fall.

I have seen a lawn disappear in a matter of a week because of a heavy chinch bug infestation. Like dead. Not coming back. Plan on getting new grass.