

**NOTE:** THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS OFFERED AS A GUIDE FOR PROSPECTIVE CHALLENGES TO MANAGING SEASHORE PASPALUM. ALL TURFGRASSES ARE SUBJECTED TO INSECT, DISEASE, AND WEED PRESSURES. PROPER MANAGEMENT IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS. YOU MUST CHECK ALL LABELS OF THE PESTICIDES TO BE USED ON THIS GRASS FOR LEGAL AND PROPER USE. MENTION OF A PARTICULAR PRODUCT IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF THAT PRODUCT BUT REFLECTS WHAT IS KNOWN AT THE PRESENT TIME. ENVIRONMENTAL INTERACTIONS, INCLUDING SALINITY THAT IMPACT SPECIFIC SITES, MAY GIVE VARIABLE RESULTS IN THE USE OF SOME PRODUCTS.

## SPITTLEBUG

### **TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG:** *Prosapia bicinata* (Say)

**Life cycle:** overwinter in thatch, behind leaf sheaths, or in stems. Eggs hatch as turf comes out of dormancy. Newly hatched nymphs seek moist, humid feeding sites near the base of grass plants. As they feed, they excrete a frothy spittle mass for protection from desiccation and enemies. Masses are found just below the soil surface (0-5 cm). Nymphs mature as adults in 34-60 days, depending on moisture and temperature. Eggs hatch in 2-3 weeks during mid-summer.

Generally, two generations per year.

**Feeding symptoms:** adults and nymphs suck juice from the grass, weakening the plant. Adults inject a salivary toxin that is translocated up and down the stem, cause the whole plant to turn yellow and brown; then the grass dies. Sparse density; blighted looking turf.

**Management:** Most abundant in years with high spring and summer rainfall. Damage resembles chinch bug feeding, except that it occurs in shady areas rather than full sun. Young spittlebugs cannot survive under dry conditions and thrive in moist thatchy turf. Withhold irrigation when nymphs are hatching in the spring or midsummer. Dethatch and aerate to reduce spittlebug buildup.

**Potential chemical control (timing is critical): (ROTATE MOA CHEMISTRIES)**

**Contacts: acephate (ORTHENE, AVATAR®, PRECISE) and chlorpyrifos (DURSBAN).**

**Granules can be applied followed by irrigation.**

**bifenthrin (TALSTAR, FIREBIRD®, CROSSCHECK, Up-Star SC, MENACE, MAXXTHOR, PROSECT™), spinosad (CONSERVE, ENTRUST™), bifenthrin + zeta-cypermethrin (TALSTAR XTRA).**

**Systemics: imidacloprid (MERIT, MALLETT, GARANT, WARRANT, ENFORCE, BENEFIT, QUALI-PRO IMIDACLOPRID, TURFTHOR, IMIDA PRO, HAWK-I® N/O, POINTER, BOUNTY™, GRUBOUT™), halofenozide (MACH 2), thiamethoxam (MERIDIAN), imidacloprid + bifenthrin (ALLECTUS), azadirachtin (AZAGUARD EC); imidacloprid + beta-cyfluthrin (TEMPRID), bifenthrin + zeta-cypermethrin + imidacloprid (TRIPLE CROWN T&O). Acephate + imidacloprid (Avatar PLX).**

**Natural biorational controls: fungus *Entomophthora gryllii* with irrigation on warm evenings**