

Two-lined Spittlebug

Prepared by
 Solveig Cornille, MG 2005
 Camille Goodwin, MG 2008

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
 Galveston County Office
 Dickinson, TX 77539



Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin.
 The Texas A&M System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.



FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Prosapia bicincta* Say)

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: late spring through early fall

Plants Affected

- Almost any plant including many weeds, turfgrass, ornamentals, pecans, strawberries, and hollies

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Adults are 1/3" long with bright red eyes and their abdomen is bright red and shows conspicuously when in flight
- Resembles robust, black leafhoppers with two prominent red stripes across the back (Fig. 5-7)
- Wings are held roof-like over the back of an inverted "V"
- Larval stage is protected by spit-like material that protects it from predators, provides moisture and thermal control for the insect
- Immatures residing within masses of spittle are smaller, wingless, with white, yellow or orange bodies and brown heads and red eyes (Fig. 3 & 4)
- There are several other spittlebug species common in Texas

Description / Symptoms

- Feeds on many plants including grasses, ornamental plants, hollies, pecans, and strawberries
- Heavy infestations can result in distorted plants and slow plant growth
- Most noticeable at immature stages, feeding on host plant, produce masses of frothy spittle that encircle the twigs and young leaves (Fig. 1-3)
- Medically harmless



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Best Management Practices (BMP)

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Usually control is not needed except when populations are extremely high
- Apply a strong spray of water to dislodge the nymphs from affected plant
- Parasitic wasps

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Insecticidal soap or horticultural oil is effective if coverage is thorough
- Imidacloprid



The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

All images are copyrighted by the Galveston County Master Gardener Association (GCMGA). These images are for educational use only and may not be used for commercial or non-educational purpose without written permission from GCMGA.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service • Galveston County Office • 5115 Highway 3 • Dickinson, TX 77539
281-534-3413 • <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>