Chinch Bugs

Chinch bugs are tiny insects, the full-grown adult being about 1/5 inch in length, and therefore are difficult to detect. These insects suck juice from the crowns of the grass plant, as well as injecting a toxic liquid into the plant. Because of this toxin, grass does not recover from severe chinch bug damage.

Damage Symptoms
Chinch bugs tend to congregate in areas, and the characteristic damage appearance is one of localized dead spots. Large infestations may totally kill an entire lawn. Damage usually appears as yellow areas where heat is radiated from paved surfaces or off walls of buildings. However, during periods of extreme heat and drought, damage may occur anywhere in full sun.

Identification
Chinch bugs become most active when temperatures are in the high 70s or above. Adults have black bodies with white markings, which are the folded wings. The life cycle of the chinch bug includes five stages. Young nymphs are red with a white band on the abdomen. The nymphs will change to orange, then orange-brown and then black. If you suspect yellow or browning spots in your lawn are caused by chinch bugs, examine the areas at the edge of the dead spots. Flood a section of the damaged lawn with water and place a white cloth over the grass, which will make the insects easier to see as they crawl away from the water.

Control
Keep a close eye on any spots in your lawn that may appear to be wilting or turning yellow or brown. Proper watering of your lawn may discourage chinch bugs, as they prefer hot, dry locations. Contact your LAWN RANGERS representative as soon as you detect a chinch bug problem. Early detection and a chemical application can minimize damage.

For more information and a free consultation and estimate, please contact LAWN RANGERS today at 902-876-2739.