

SPITTLE BUGS (FROGHOPPERS)

TURFGRASS PEST IDENTIFICATION

SCOUT | IDENTIFY | TAKE ACTION

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KNOW MORE. GROW FURTHER.

SPITTLE MASS (FOAM)



Nymphs live inside this protective foam, called a spittle mass.

ADULT SPITTLE BUG



Adult spittle bug / froghopper
Appearance varies by species; artwork not species-confirmed.

NYMPH (INSIDE FOAM)



Spittle bug nymph

Soft-bodied nymphs feed on plant sap inside the spittle mass (foam).

LIFE CYCLE



Two-lined spittlebug (*Prosapia bicincta*)

- Eggs overwinter near bases or between leaf sheath and stem.
- Nymphs feed inside foam; five instars precede adulthood.
- Usually two generations in the South, one in cooler areas; rarely three in the Deep South.

WHERE TO FIND THEM



- Centipedegrass and bermudagrass are favored hosts.
- Check grass bases, thatch and leaf sheaths.
- Other warm-season turf may be affected.
- Confirm foam-bound nymphs and adult stages.

DAMAGE



- Feeding may cause purple, red or white streaking, wilt or browning.
- Foam alone does not establish a need to treat.
- Severe infestations can stress or kill turf.
- Confirm host, live stages, population and injury.

KEY IDENTIFICATION SIGNS



- White, frothy spittle mass on plants
- Nymphs are hidden inside foam
- Adults are wedge-shaped; appearance varies by species
- Verify host, stage and live features together



SCOUTING TIPS

- Inspect grass bases, thatch and leaf sheaths.
- Open foam gently to confirm live nymphs.
- Record host, stage, population and injury.
- Timing and generations vary by region.



MANAGEMENT NOTES

- Foam alone is not a treatment trigger.
- Assess host, live stages, population and injury.
- Address site stress; follow local guidance.
- Treat active damage only; follow product label.



GOOD TO KNOW

- Froghoppers: Hemiptera, family Cercopidae.
- Eggs overwinter; generations vary by region.
- Foam is a clue, not proof of harmful numbers.
- Confirm live stages and injury before action.



PRO TIP: Foam is a scouting clue - not an automatic treatment trigger. Confirm host, live stages, population and injury.

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CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS

Treatment results depend on correct identification, pest life stage, product, timing, and application conditions. Later hatch or reinfestation may require further monitoring. Base any additional treatment on scouting, site history, local guidance, and the product label—not an automatic repeat schedule.

[1] UF/IFAS — Pest identification and biology

<https://ask.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/IN1369>