

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Twolined Spittlebug

Scientific Name: *Prosapia bicinta*

Order and Family: Hemiptera, Cercopidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.96 – 1.06 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• yellow in color
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• yellow, orange or white in color• red eyes• brown head• look like a small adult without wings
Adult	8.0 – 10.0 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• black with two red or orange lines that are on the wings• red eyes and abdomen

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: The nymphs feed on Bermuda grass, holly, redbud, cherry, centipede grass, and corn. The adults eat holly leaves, feeding on the undersides of the leaves.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Twolined spittlebug nymphs feed on the juices of grass and can cause damage from their toxic saliva, causing the grass to turn yellow. The specific damage caused is leaf spotting or mottling. Twolined spittlebugs are not a major pest but they can cause grass to turn yellow and die. The adults feed on holly leaves and can cause similar damage such as leaf spotting and distortion of leaves. The damage the adults do to the holly leaves causes them to turn yellow and then fall off.

References:

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- Brandenburg, R.L., Bambara, S., Baker, J. R. (2002 April). Managing the Twolined Spittlebug in the Home Landscape. Retrieved February 25, 2016, from <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/notes/O&T/lawn/note97/note97.html>
- Cranshaw, W. (2014). Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs. Princeton University Press.
- Fagan, E. B., Kuitert L. C., (1969 September) Biology of the Two-Lined Spittlebug, *Prosapia bicincta*, on Florida Pastures (Homoptera: Cercopidae). Retrieved February 26, 2016 from <http://journals.fcla.edu/flaent/article/view/56508/54187>