

## False Chinch Bugs



False chinch bug adult R. Otten/IPM  
Images)



False chinch bug nymphs, adults



False chinch bugs feeding in mass

**Typical Location When Observed:** False chinch bugs are most commonly found feeding in large groups on plants in the mustard family.

**Importance/Damage:** False chinch bugs can be a temporary nuisance in homes and other buildings during hot, dry weather.

**Distinguishing Features:** False chinch bugs are small (1/8 inch), elongate, grayish bugs with prominent eyes. They commonly feed in large aggregations.

**Look-Alikes:** Black grass bugs, chinch bugs

**General Life History and Habits:** False chinch bug adults overwinter on mustards, such as flixweed. Egg laying starts in early spring. Multiple generations are produced annually. Their feeding is not very damaging. Mustards such as radish, canola, and mustard greens, are preferred but they feed on many others, including potato, kochia, lettuce, pigweed, quinoa and even turfgrasses. The largest feeding aggregations are usually found on plants that are flowering or producing seed.

**Resources:** Details may be found in CSU Extension Fact Sheet 5.603, *False Chinch Bugs*.

**Scientific Name:** *Nysius raphanus*

**Order:** Hemiptera

**Family:** Lygaeidae (seed bugs)

Actual Length  
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