



Management of Pyrethroid-Resistant Southern Chinch Bug

The southern chinch bug, *Blissus insularis*, is the #1 pest affecting St. Augustinegrass lawns in Florida and other southern states. Feeding causes unsightly damage and in severe cases - will kill turfgrass.



**Southern chinch bug
adult and nymph**



**Southern chinch bug damage
to St. Augustinegrass**

For the past several years, the synthetic pyrethroid bifenthrin (Ex.Talstar[®], Bifen) has been the primary insecticide used by lawn care professionals to manage southern chinch bug. Bifenthrin provides rapid knockdown of chinch bugs and up to four weeks of control. However, due to overuse, chinch bug resistance to bifenthrin has become a major issue in many parts of Florida¹ and resistance is growing even worse.

In cases where bifenthrin is no longer effective, lawn care professionals have been forced to adopt alternative chemistry for control of southern chinch bug. Based on university trials, the neonicotinoid insecticide *Arena* has become recognized as the best option for control of pyrethroid-resistant chinch bug.

Arena offers the following benefits to lawn care professionals:

- Effective control of southern chinch bugs – pyrethroid-resistant and susceptible
- Long residual – up to 8 weeks of control
- Excellent control of white grubs
- Longer soil half-life than other neonicotinoids – longer residual
- Lower water solubility than other neonicotinoids – less vulnerable to summer rains
- Does not include a pyrethroid - does not increase bifenthrin resistance
- Good rotation partner for bifenthrin (where chinch bugs are susceptible to bifenthrin)
- Sprayable and granular formulations available

Arena may take 7-14 days to provide curative control of chinch bugs. Therefore, for best results, apply *Arena* preventively before chinch bug populations reach damaging levels. To help maintain the viability of bifenthrin as an effective management tool for chinch bugs, rotate with *Arena* and other effective products, and do not mix *Arena* with bifenthrin or apply premixes containing bifenthrin except where necessary.

¹<http://www.fcla.edu/FlaEnt/fe88p219.pdf>



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