

False Chinch Bugs

False chinch bug (*Nysius raphanus*) is one of the most commonly encountered plant feeding insects in much of Colorado. They can be found on wide variety of plants, but mustard family plants are particularly favored. Flixweed and other winter annual mustards (such as winter canola) are critical to their survival between growing seasons but other plants, such as kochia and pigweeds, can be important hosts in summer.

It can be expected that some false chinch bugs will be found in hemp throughout the growing season. However, occurrence of noticeably large numbers likely will only occur if large areas of winter annual mustards in near vicinity are cut or rapidly dry down, forcing migration of the insects.



False chinch bugs, adults and nymphs.



False chinch bugs massed on hemp plant.

False chinch bugs feed by sucking fluids from leaves of plants in a manner similar to Lygus bugs (“lacerate and flush”). However, their ability to cause injury to leaves, buds and seeds appears to be far less than what is produced by Lygus bugs and it can be expected that measurable damage to hemp by false chinch bugs would only occur when extremely high populations occur on plants for a period of many days-weeks. The damage that false chinch bugs may produce to hemp has little potential to cause effects on yield.

Hemiptera: Lygaeidae