

Problem: Two-line Spittle bug - *Prosapia bicincta*



Host Plants: Spittlebugs are commonly found on junipers and pine trees but can be found on a wide host range.

Description: The spittlebug derives its name from the white, frothy "spittle" the nymphs produce. Adults are large, black leafhoppers about 1/3-inch long with two red stripes that go crosswise across the back. The eyes and abdomen are bright red. Though the nymphs resemble the adults, they are smaller and wingless. Color varies from yellow to white to orange but the eyes are always red.

Spittlebug nymphs suck plant juices like aphids, but they remove so much water and carbohydrates that excess fluid is produced. They cover themselves with this fluid and then produce the spittle by bubbling air from the tip of the abdomen into the liquid. The spittle mass helps protect the nymphs from drying and predators.

Recommendations: Spittlebugs normally do not achieve high enough populations to cause damage. If they do, forcefully hosing the plants several times may achieve the level of control needed. If not, carbaryl (Sevin) will kill them.

References:

1. [Spittlebugs](#), Focus on Plant Problems, University of Illinois Extension

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