

Spittlebug (*Philaenus spumarius*)

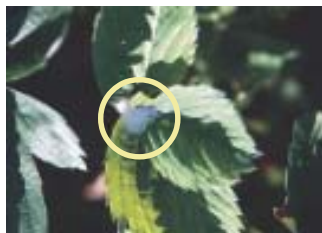
Spittlebug is a pest of strawberries in Minnesota. Spittlebug overwinter as egg masses in strawberry stubble and other hosts such as forage crops. There is only 1 generation per year.



Adult spittlebug

Adult spittlebug is bright green when newly emerged, turning dull brown or mottled gray later. Body size is about 6 mm long. Spittlebugs may be confused with leafhoppers.

— 6 mm



Spittlebug nymph in spittle mass

Nymphs are whitish to brownish-yellow or orange when newly hatched, turning green later. They produce a frothy spittle and remain in this protective substance until developing into adults.

Nymphs emerge in April and May and complete their development in 5 to 8 weeks. Spittlebug first feed at the base of plants but later move up to the more tender foliage and blossom clusters during bloom.

Plant injury occurs as nymphs pierce the plant and suck on sap. Plants can become stunted, resulting in reduced yield.

Populations are usually largest in weedy fields. Leaves recover after the insects leave. Although spittlebugs usually do not cause significant yield loss, they can annoy pickers.