

Pasture Pests:  
**Nysius Wheat bug (*Nysius huttoni*)**  
Information Sheet

**Identification.**

The small nymphs are dark orange in colour and as they move through their 5 stages of nymphal growth. Nysius become grey or brown-grey in the later of the 5 stages and more obvious.

Nysius grow in size from a first stage of approximately 0.5 mm long until they eventually they reach about 2 mm. In these nymph stage's they are difficult to see and it's easy to underestimate numbers.

The adults are typically dull brownish-grey (about 4 mm length) with fully developed wings.



**Distribution and damage.**

Nysius are wide spread throughout most of New Zealand and prefers open and warm and dry ground where sunlight hits the ground. This is obviously typical of new establishing agricultural and horticultural crops especially direct drilled ones.

They damage the plants in two ways:

- the first is at the seedling stage where the “feeding punctures” kill them
- the second way is by attacking the larger plants effectively get ring barked by them and make them susceptible to wind break.

Damage in the most severe of cases has been recorded at 90% of all brassica plants in the paddock.

*For more information or to discuss how to protect your pasture against Nysius Wheat bug please contact Specialty Seeds*



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