

A Bug's Life

Grasshoppers

Family: Acrididae

Fun facts

- Familiar insect, hundreds of species
- Rest in grasslands with tall grasses and weeds
- Overwinter as eggs in pods in soil

Host plants

- Primarily grasses, but also beans, corn, lettuce, carrots, onion and others

Identification

Damage: Defoliation of leaves and pods, ragged, chewed leaves, noticeable frass, reduced plant vigor, plant death

Grasshopper: Usually 3/4" to 1-1/2" long in length, modified hind legs to specialize in jumping, adults are winged and capable of flight, nymphs resemble adults but without wings

Management

- Keep grass mowed around garden
- Remove weeds
- Install floating row covers*
- Organic options include neem oil and biological baits; synthetic options include pyrethroids such as bifenthrin, cyfluthrin and permethrin
- Insecticide treatments should target tall grass areas outside garden



Photos: J. Green

*Row covers should be removed or pulled back when plants flower to allow for pollination