

## Grasshoppers

### Overview

Grasshopper population levels are highest during hot, dry summers. Active scouting and applying appropriate crop management practices can help guard your crop from damage.

### What you should know

- Grasshoppers have chewing mouthparts, and their feeding destroys plants.
- The economically significant species of grasshoppers overwinter in egg pods below the soil surface. Eggs are deposited from August through October.
- Most grasshopper eggs hatch from late May through early July, with only one generation produced each year. Young grasshoppers (nymphs) resemble small adults without wings.
- Grasshoppers often first appear in weedy areas of roadsides, fencerows and irrigation ditches. After those plants are eaten or dried down, grasshoppers migrate in search of new food sources, such as irrigated crops or newly emerged winter wheat.

### Action steps

1. **Proactively scout:** Begin in May. Grasshopper infestations have the greatest impact in field crops when the weather is hot and dry. Grasshoppers start feeding in field margins and then multiply throughout the field.
2. **Identify damage:** Grasshopper injury is most often associated with rangeland, corn, small grains and vegetable crops. However, during heavy infestations, they will attack trees, shrubs, flowers, lawn grasses and other vegetation.
3. **Know thresholds:** Estimate the number of grasshoppers per square yard, surveying several sites within a field to ensure a representative estimate of the infestation level. Treatment may be necessary when populations reach or exceed 40 nymphs per square yard.
4. **Control with insecticides:** Depending upon the infestation level of the grasshoppers, their size and other considerations, field margins can be treated effectively with low rates of an appropriate insecticide. Larger-sized grasshoppers can require higher rates.



Actively scout for grasshoppers to prevent crop yield loss.



### 30-Second Summary

- Uncontrolled grasshoppers can reduce yield in row crops during hot, dry summers.
- Grasshoppers begin feeding in margin areas, then move into crop fields as they exhaust their food supply.
- Scout early, starting in May, to head off heavy infestations.

### NOTES:

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For more information, contact:



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