

# Grasshopper



Hi-Yield

ferti-lome Info Sheet

ferti-lome

Grasshoppers are a very common insect that come in many sizes, shapes and colors. Most are green or brownish, (see second and third image) others are very brightly colored, (see top image).

Grasshoppers can cause great economical damage to crops, turf, landscapes and gardens. They go through five nymph stages (see fourth image) before molting a last time (see the fifth image), becoming adults. As adults they have wings (see bottom image) and can mate.

They are very heavy feeders (see sixth image) at all stages and will eat almost anything. They prefer grass or plants in the grass family and weeds, but are just as likely to enjoy plants in a field or garden. As the season proceeds, heat and drought reduce vegetation the grasshoppers move to crops or areas where plants are irrigated.

Grasshoppers overwinter as eggs deposited in the soil the previous year (see inset in fourth image). In late spring to early summer the eggs hatch and feeding begins. After becoming adults, they can live two to three months, being able to fly over 15 miles in search of food. There is one generation per year.

## Control

Due to how mobile adults are, they are much harder to control, also adult grasshoppers have a very waxy exo-skeleton, helping them resist many chemicals. To help chemicals stick and penetrate that waxy exo-skeleton, you **MUST** add *HY Spreader Sticker* to the mix when you spray. Nymph stages are less mobile and are more sensitive to chemicals so the earlier the application, the better.

The BEST success I have seen controlling grasshoppers is a mixture of *HY Lawn, Garden, Pet & Livestock Spray* with *HY Spreader Sticker*. Without the *HY Spreader Sticker*, it only seems effective on young ones. This is a nice broad spectrum product because of how many places you can use it, including vegetable gardens. Apply early in the morning to reduce the effect on beneficial insects and to take advantage of morning feeding grasshoppers.

To spray non-edible areas such as, the yard or weedy areas where grasshoppers may first appear use *HY Bug Blaster Bifenthrin 2.4*. Again, add *HY Spreader Sticker* if you are not using the RTS.

An organic option would be the *FL Triple Action*. With this we do not add spreader sticker, it acts like one on it's own. It is OMRI listed.

For soil application in the garden, *HY Vegetable & Ornamental Insect Granules* will work.

