

GRASSHOPPERS—*Melanoplus* spp.

HOSTS: Russian-olive, boxelder (Manitoba maple), caragana (Siberian peashrub), elm, cherry, plum, honeysuckle, lilac, oak, pine, and other conifer and hardwood trees and shrubs

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Grasshoppers vary in size and coloration but all have short antennae, large eyes, large hind legs, leathery narrow forewings, and broad membranous hindwings.

Most grasshopper species overwinter as eggs in the ground. Nymphs emerge in the spring and mature in 40 to 70 days. They feed throughout the remainder of the summer and early fall, and mate in the fall.

Grasshoppers usually feed on range grasses, small grains, soybeans, flax, corn, and grasses and weeds bordering fields. However, when populations

become epidemic, they will feed on most plants, including trees and shrubs. Defoliation can be devastating to small trees.

CONTROL: For temporary control, spray leaves and branches with carbaryl or chlorpyrifos. Trees frequently are reinfested by grasshoppers moving in from untreated sites; therefore, trees should be resprayed as needed.



Melanoplus sp. grasshopper nymph