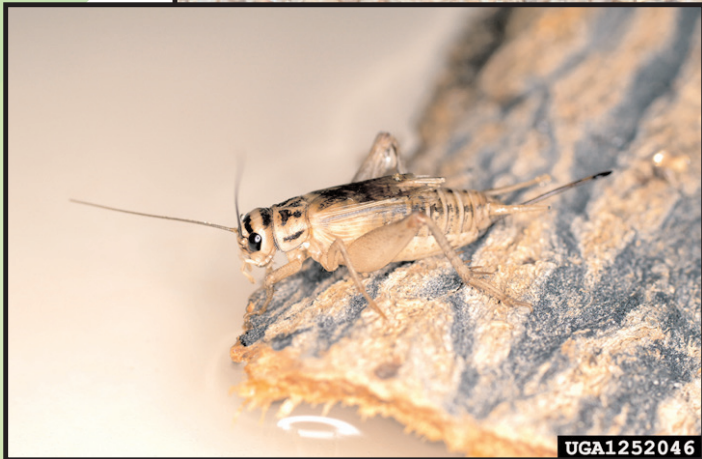


Cricket



UGA1252034



UGA1252046

GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

CRICKET

FAMILY: Gryllidae

ORDER: Orthoptera (means "straight" wings)

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/2 to 1 inch long
- ◆ light brown, black, or green
- ◆ long, strong hind legs for jumping
- ◆ long antennae
- ◆ two cerci (tubes) project from end of abdomen



Where to Look

Crickets are found in meadows and the foliage of plants under rocks and logs or in the basement of your home. Some species live in caves or underground burrows.

What It Eats

Crickets eat mostly plant parts such as seeds, roots, seedlings, berries, and leaves. Some are scavengers and eat dead insects.



Life Cycle

INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

Crickets overwinter as eggs, which hatch out as worm-like young, and then molt into tiny versions of the adults without wings and some organs. These nymphs gradually develop into adults.

Who Eats It?

Birds are the main enemies of crickets, but they are also eaten by spiders, wasps, small rodents and lizards.

Role in the Ecosystem

Crickets play a role in the food chain and recycling. They also help aerate the soil.



Did You Know

Crickets will synchronize their calls, all singing together with the same rhythm, a common sound on a summer evening.