

# Grasshopper



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# GRASSHOPPER

FAMILY: Many families of Grasshoppers

ORDER: Orthoptera (means "straight" wings)

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ 1/2 - 3 inches long depending on species
- ◆ green, brown, or gray; may have bright markings
- ◆ adults winged
- ◆ long, strong hind-legs for jumping
- ◆ antennae short or long depending on species



## Where to Look

Grasshoppers can be found in meadows, fields, lawns, and vacant lots on the ground or on shrubs.

## What It Eats

Grasshoppers feed on grasses, herbs, shrubs, and vines. There are a few primitive species that eat meat.



## Life Cycle

INCOMPLETE  
METAMORPHOSIS

Eggs are laid on the ground or in plants. Worm-like nymphs hatch out and mature into adults.

## Who Eats It?

Grasshoppers are preyed upon by birds primarily, but spiders and predatory insects also feed on grasshoppers.



## Did You Know

Males make their music by rubbing their legs together. These sounds are used to attract females and establish territories.

## Role in the Ecosystem

Grasshopper nymphs and adults are an important part of the food chain.