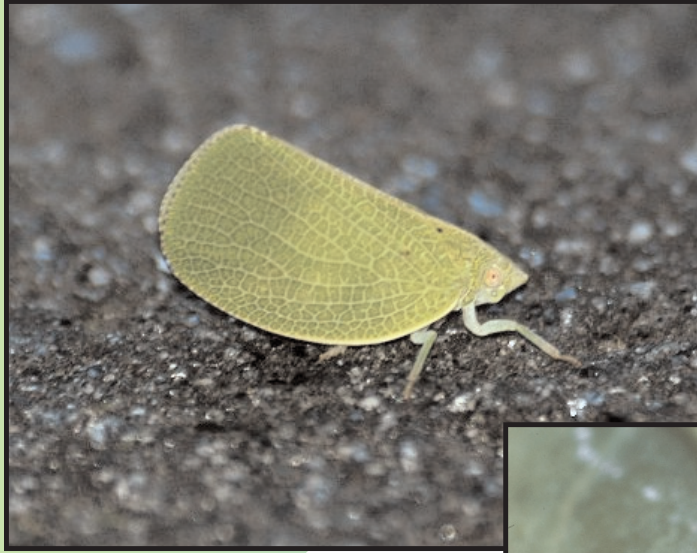


# Leafhopper



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# LEAFHOPPER

FAMILY: Membracidae

ORDER: Homoptera (means "same" wings)

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ very small, 1/16 - 5/8 inch long
- ◆ many colors including green, black, yellow, red and many combinations
- ◆ wings transparent or colored
- ◆ mouth is modified for piercing and sucking
- ◆ long hind legs for jumping



## Where to Look

Leafhoppers are found in gardens, fields and meadows. They can also be fairly common in the vegetable garden or on fruit trees like apple and plum.

## What It Eats

The leafhopper feeds on a variety of plants from grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees. They suck the juices from leaves with their straw-like mouth.



## Life Cycle

INCOMPLETE  
METAMORPHOSIS

Eggs are laid in stems and leaves in the spring. The nymphs go through 4-5 stages before becoming adults.

Adults overwinter in the leaf litter.

## Who Eats It?

Leafhoppers are eaten by birds, lizards, spiders, and wasps. Fungi will also attack leafhoppers.



## Did You Know

Leafhoppers secrete sweet honeydew as they feed. This honeydew attracts, bees, flies, and wasps, which feed on the honeydew.

## Role in the Ecosystem

Leafhoppers are an important part of the food chain as prey for many bird species and also as producers of honeydew, a food source for many insects.