Leafhopper
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.

Who Eats It?

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

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.

Did You Know

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