

Walkingstick



GARDEN EARTH
NATURALIST
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

WALKINGSTICK

FAMILY: Phasmatidae

ORDER: Phasmatodea

IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ large, 3 - 6 inches long
- ◆ long, thin brown body looks like a stick
- ◆ wingless
- ◆ long antennae
- ◆ two cerci (tubes) project from tip of abdomen



Where to Look.

Walkingsticks are found in deciduous forests where they live in oaks, cherries and walnuts.

What It Eats.

Walkingsticks feed on the leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs.



Life Cycle

INCOMPLETE
METAMORPHOSIS

Females drop their eggs into the leaf litter where they overwinter and hatch in the spring. The nymphs crawl into the trees to eat and develop into adults.

Who Eats It?

Although walkingsticks are well-camouflaged, they are occasionally taken by birds.



Did You Know...

In the spring, as many female walkingsticks drop their eggs into the leaf litter it can sound like a gentle rain. The eggs look like seeds.

Role in the Ecosystem

Walkingsticks are an occasional food source for birds.