

## Pest Profile



Photo Credit: [David Riley](#), University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Differential Grasshopper

**Scientific Name:** *Melanoplus differentialis*

**Order and Family:** Orthoptera: Acrididae

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	Pods: 25mm – 38mm Eggs: 4.4mm – 5.1mm	Eggs are deposited in the soil within a curved pod. Individual eggs are olive colored.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		Generally pale green, pale yellow or tan with many spots and markings. The head often has dark spots, the pronotum (area just behind the head) has a horizontal stripe.
<b>Adult</b>	38.1mm	Vary in coloration and may be green, brownish-green, or olive green. Femurs of hind legs have chevron pattern, tibia typically yellow with black saw-toothed spikes.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing

**Host plant/s:** Grasses are particularly favored, but most all garden plants can be damaged. Bean, leafy vegetables, iris, and corn are among the more commonly injured garden plants.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Differential grasshoppers cause damage to plants by chewing. Most of the feeding occurs on foliage, however, immature pods, stems, and fruit may also be eaten. Bark from twigs can sometimes be gnawed, causing girdling wounds.

### References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

*Differential Grasshopper*. (n.d.). Fairfax County Public Schools. Retrieved from: [http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/differential\\_grasshopper.hem](http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/differential_grasshopper.hem)

*Differential Grasshopper*. (n.d.). Field Guide to Common Western Grasshoppers. Retrieved from: <https://www.sidney.ars.usda.gov/grasshopper/extrnlpg/ghwywest/medi.htm>