

Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Calibas](#)

Common Name: Jerusalem cricket, also known as “Potato Bug”. This cricket also has several other nick names usually locally given them by different cultures based on their odd appearance. Native Americans called it Who-tzi-Neh, which means “Old Bald-Headed Man.” In Spanish, it is called “Nina de la Tierra” or “child of the earth.”

Scientific Name: *Stonopelmatus fuscus*

Order and Family: Orthoptera; Stenopelmatidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Nymph	Smaller than adults	-Similar to adults but smaller
Adult	Up to 50 mm	-Disproportionally large, bold, shiny, almost human-like head -Dark round eyes, long antennae set directly below the eyes -Head, thorax and legs are usually yellow, but the head sometimes can be brownish - Dark brown abdomen ringed tan

Type of feeder: Chewing

Host plants: Jerusalem crickets are primarily predators and scavengers of other arthropods, but they have also been found in potato fields feeding on the roots and tubers.

Description of Damage: The damage they cause to plants includes chewing away portions of the roots and tubers, and chewing away fruits and some vegetables, although they rarely cause economic crop losses.

References:

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

Dr. Wayne S. Johnson, Jeff Knight. The Jerusalem Cricket. Cooperative Extension. Fact Sheet 99-35.
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