

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Russ Ottens, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Redlegged Grasshopper

**Scientific Name:** *Melanoplus femurrubrum*

**Order and Family:** Orthoptera and Acrididae

**Size and Appearance:** Redlegged grasshoppers range in size, from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1-inch long. They are variable in color but they can be identified by their reddish-brown color with a yellow underside, their bright red tibia on the hind legs, and a black colored line right behind the eyes. Nymphs resemble the adults, but are smaller in size and have a solid black stripe that runs across the sides of the head and along the sides of the thorax.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		Light brown colored; elongate shaped; eggs are laid in soil in clusters in earthen cell; females lay 25-30 eggs in a cluster; hatch late spring to summer.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	4-6mm, 1 <sup>st</sup> instar	Resemble adults but smaller; have solid black stripe running across sides of head and along sides of thorax; wings absent, but have developing wing buds in later instars; 5 instars.
<b>Adult</b>	17-30mm	Variable in color from yellow, green, dark brown, or reddish brown; yellow underside; bright red tibia on hind legs; black line behind eyes; black herringbone pattern on femur of back legs.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

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

**Host plant/s:** They have a wide range of host plants; grasses particularly favored, but they can also damage garden plants and grain crops. More commonly damaged garden plants include bean, leafy vegetables, corn, soybean, alfalfa, and iris among others.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Redlegged grasshoppers are leaf chewers primarily feeding on leaves, sometimes causing total defoliation of the host plant leaves by chewing most leaf tissue but leaving the tougher veins. Both nymphs and adults feed on leaves. Nymphs may completely strip seedling soybeans of leaf tissue. Adults can chew through the pod walls of soybean and eat the developing seed.

**References:**

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