

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Common Name: Mormon cricket

Scientific Name: *Anabrus simplex*

Order and Family: Orthoptera, Tettigoniidae

Size and Appearance: Adults are medium-sized with a stout, wingless body, growing 1 ½ to 3 inches in length. The adults can range from black, brown, reddish, yellowish, or green in color. The tegmina (leathery forewing covering the hindwing) in the males extend beyond the pronotum (thorax area); the tegmina on the female is concealed by the pronotum. Females have a long sword-like ovipositor (egg laying device) that is curved upward. Both male and females have long antennae. Nymphs tend to be black with white markings on pronotum, and will undergo seven instars.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	7-8mm	White in color; shape is elongate; eggs hatch in spring; can stay dormant in the ground for a few years if conditions aren't ideal.
Larva/Nymph	6mm	Black with white markings on pronotum; older nymphs can be black, brown, green, or orange in color; similar in appearance to adults; have 7 instars.
Adult	28-45mm	Varies in color from green, yellowish, reddish, brown, and black; have spines on their back legs (tibiae); they are flightless; females have long upward curved sword-like ovipositor; smooth and shiny; have long antennae; when migrating, they are dark brown or black in color; normal solitary ones are green or light brown in color.
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host plant/s: Rangeland shrubs, forbs, grasses, and broadleaf plants. During heavy infestation and migration, field and forage crops, garden plants, and fruit trees, vineyards, and grains.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Most feeding occurs on the flower and seed parts of the plants. Both nymphs and adults feed on plants. The mandibles are sharp for chewing many species of plants and can easily chew into fruit. Mormon crickets can form migrating bands of many individuals that feed on and damage plants in their path. They don't fly but instead crawl, eating most plants that they come across including crops, rangeland, and garden plants.

References:

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