

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Two-striped Grasshopper

Scientific Name: *Melanoplus bivittatus* (Say)

Order and Family: Orthoptera, Acrididae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	5.1-5.3 mm	Eggs are laid as elongated egg pods that contain 20 to 120 eggs in the soil. The whole egg mass is egg-shaped, with the single egg being an olive shape.
Nymph		Nymphs look like the adults, but lack wings, which are replaced with wing pads. They have a slanted face and are greenish or brownish in color. Like the adults, they have two dark stripes that run from the back of the eyes along the sides of the thorax.
Adult	Male: 24-35 Female: 32-43	The adults are slender in body, have a slanted face, and are greenish or brownish in body color. They have two dark stripes that run from the back of the eyes along the sides of the thorax and ending in white streaks on the wing base. The third pair of legs can have a bluish color on the fourth segment of the leg (tibia). There is a distinctive black band on the top of the third segment of the legs (femur). The dorsal surface of the thorax (pronotum) has a ridge that runs down the middle. The female is significantly larger than the male. Both the antennae of the male and female are threadlike. The front wings are parchment like, and the hind wings are thin (membranous) and are folded over the back when not in use. They also have a median spine or tubercle on the underside of the thorax and right behind the head.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Nymphs and adults have chewing mouthparts.

Host/s: Both the nymph and adult feed on small grains, grasses, corn, sorghum, alfalfa and red clover. They also can feed upon weed species such as mustards, flixweed, pepperweed, plantain, greenflower, dandelion, chicory, prickly lettuce, and giant ragweed. The two-striped grasshopper has also been found feeding on dry litter on the ground.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The two-striped grasshopper can be a major pest in small grains, corn, alfalfa and can move into fields from grassy borders or adjacent pasture. In corn, they will feed on the leaf edges, and if numerous, can strip the leaf to the midrib. They also can feed on leaves of sorghum, although sorghum is not a highly preferred host. The adults and nymphs will defoliate leaves in small grains. Ragged holes in the leaf margins can also be observed in corn, sorghum, and alfalfa.

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