

LUBBER GRASSHOPPERS



ADULT LUBBER

SIZE

Up to 3 inches

Periodically, grasshoppers have caused serious damage to citrus, vegetable crops and landscape ornamentals. One of the species that may cause damage is the eastern lubber grasshopper. Lubbers are well known for their size and distinct coloration. Young lubbers are black with yellow or red stripes. Adult lubbers are yellow with black spots and a bright red portion visible when the wings are exposed. Despite the larger size of the eastern lubber, they eat far less food material than many smaller, more injurious species of grasshoppers.

The eastern lubber grasshopper rarely occurs in high enough numbers to cause significant damage to gardens and ornamentals. The lubbers' size lends themselves to a non-chemical control method. A homeowner can easily rid oneself of any individual lubbers by hand. Lubbers are large, slow moving, and essentially harmless to humans. Armed with a net or a homemade smashing device (such as a broom) one can minimize any potential damage within minutes. If chemical control is necessary, there are several insecticides registered for use on ornamentals, fruits, and vegetables to control grasshoppers. For specific recommendations refer to the Florida Insect Management Guide. However one should remember that grasshoppers are much easier to control when they are nymphs. As they mature, and grow larger, higher rates of toxicants must be applied for effective control.

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