

Integrated Pest Management Program

Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture UConn Extension

Tales from the Field, Sept 14, 2015 Grasshoppers Leanne Pundt, Extension Educator, UConn Extension

Everyone is busy shipping and hopefully selling fall mums, so I will be brief. I occasionally receive questions about **grasshoppers**, so I thought this might be interesting.

Grasshoppers



Figure 1: Grasshopper Feeding Damage to Ornamental Millet, Photo by L. Pundt

During this recent summer drought, grasshoppers may have been moving into your container- grown annuals such as ornamental millet or container grown perennials. In the fall, you will generally see adults feeding. Hot, dry summers and warm autumns tend to be favorable to grasshoppers.

A female grasshopper lays an average of 200 - 400 eggs per season. Female grasshoppers deposit their eggs below the soil surface in pod-like structures consisting of about 20 to 120 eggs that are cemented together. These egg pods can survive the winter if the soil is not disturbed. Eggs hatch into nymphs that become adults in approximately 40 to 60 days.

Eliminating tall grasses and weeds helps because the weeds are food sources for the young nymphs.

Nosema locustae is a naturally occurring microbe that consists of spores that are mixed with baits. The microbe which is a protozoan, or one celled animal, is used as a preventive biological control against the nymphs. However, this product is not registered in CT. These baits also act too slowly to be used for immediate control.

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Figure 2: Grasshopper Nymphs feeding on Container Perennials. Photo by L. Pundt (taken in late June)

For more: <u>Grasshoppers: Life Cycle and Control</u> Author: Stanton Gill, Extension Specialist, University of Maryland Extension September 2013

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