

FYN Garden Q & A Series

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FYN Topic: Lubber Grasshopper

Question: I am down visiting my neighbor in a campground in North Fort Myers. The park is infested with a bug that looks similar to Locust bugs, how much damage can they do?
—Email from Lori D.

Answer: The infestation of "locust-like" bugs here are better known as the Lubber grasshopper. The eastern Lubber grasshoppers are similar in size and color to the periodic cicada up North. In this part of Florida, 'lubbers' are mostly colored orange or yellow with red and black markings on the wings or body. Their chewing bite is 'big' but the damage they do is usually minor. Remove lubbers by hand. They are clumsy and slow. Despite their large size (males are 2 inches, females are 3 inches long), all lubbers eat much less than smaller types of grasshoppers in Florida. In residential communities, watch for lubber damage on amaryllis and crinum lilies but many other types of garden plants might be preferred. Communities with open pine-woods, weedy fields and weedy drainage ditches along roadsides are common feeding sites. In some places, large numbers are not unusual. Lubbers can be seen marching across rural Florida highways. Flattened lubbers in these parades create minor bug slicks.



Lubber Grasshopper Nymph



Lubber Grasshopper Adult

Useful Links

- <http://www.floridayards.org>
- <http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu>
- <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/>
- <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>
- <http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu>

Thomas Becker is an extension agent for the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) program at the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the Horticulture Help Desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by emailing Extgardener@leegov.com. Visit his Web page at <http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml>

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