

Grasshoppers

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Spring has finally arrived! It's been great to enjoy the warmer weather—despite the occasional Utah snowstorm. With the seasonal shift, we're also beginning to see an increase in insect activity. According to the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, grasshoppers are expected to be especially prevalent this year.

The best time to control grasshoppers is early—when they are first spotted and still in the nymph stage. At this point, they are less mobile and easier to manage. To achieve the most effective control, treat grasshoppers as soon as they appear and cover as wide an area as possible. Treating the perimeter of your property while the grasshoppers are still young and wingless is a great place to start. Once they develop wings, they become much more mobile and difficult to control. Coordinating with neighbors and other community members can also help, as broader treatment areas lead to better results.

Mowing a wide swath around your property can help reduce the migration of nymphs into your crops, garden, or lawn. There are three main chemical methods for managing grasshoppers: bait, dusts, and sprays. Baits can be spread across fields, lawns, or gardens and target foraging grasshoppers. However, they must be reapplied frequently, especially after rain or irrigation. Dusting is another method, but it requires more effort and frequent application, as it doesn't adhere well to forage. Sprays are typically the most affordable option and stick to plant material, killing grasshoppers on contact. While effective, sprays also require repeated applications throughout the summer and may need special equipment.

Expect to see grasshopper nymphs appearing within the next few weeks, if they haven't already. The earlier you begin treatment and the wider the area you treat, the more successful your control efforts will be.

For agricultural producers facing large grasshopper populations, the Utah Department of Agriculture offers cost-share programs that may help offset treatment expenses. If you have questions about these programs or if you see any Mormon crickets in Juab County, please contact the Juab County USU Extension office.

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