

NEWS RELEASE
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MANAGING GRASSHOPPER PROBLEMS

BACKYARD HORTICULTURE
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Grasshoppers are commonly present in Mariposa County. In some years, because of greater winter rains and natural cycles, they are present in greater numbers. This may be one of those years.

Uncontrolled, the grasshoppers can cause serious damage, from feasting on rangeland and home gardens, to eating even the siding on houses. It only takes ten grasshoppers per square yard to eat as much as a cow, giving an idea of the magnitude of the problem. The best time to consider treatment is now – when the grasshoppers are in their smaller immature stage. Once full adults, grasshoppers are much more difficult to control.

The following are a few guidelines to help you control grasshoppers in your garden, vineyard, lawn, and ornamental plantings.

1. First, clear cut a border of at least twenty feet around your plants to serve as a buffer.
2. Second, Sevin (carbaryl) bait can be applied in the buffer area and garden areas. By applying the bait to the perimeter area, the grasshoppers are forced to cross over the bait and feed on it before damaging lawns and gardens.
3. Finally, other insecticides such as Cygon (dimethoate), Malathion, or Diazinon can be considered. Follow use directions and safety precautions on the pesticide label for the correct rates and mixtures.

4. One more suggestion would be to try the bacteria Nosema Locustae – a natural bacteria that affects only grasshoppers. Once established, it will help control populations for many years as it is passed from generation to generation.

Most of the chemical pesticides take several hours for control. The bacterial control is a longer process, but is also effective for a longer period. Our local nurseries, farm supply, and hardware stores have these products available, or they can order them for purchase.

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