

Grasshoppers and Bush-crickets

Six common species to find

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Field Grasshopper

- Generally greyish or brownish in colour, sometimes with red tip to abdomen. Wings reach beyond the hind ‘knees’. Underside of the thorax is hairy. 15mm – 25mm (5/8in – 1in) long.
- Prefers dry, sunny places, especially where there is sparse vegetation or bare ground.
- Song a short, single chirp.



Meadow Grasshopper

- Generally green in colour (though females sometimes bright pink or purple!) and have dark hind ‘knees’. Females are 16mm – 22mm (5/8in – 7/8in) long and have very short wings.
- Males smaller at 10mm – 16mm (3/8in – 5/8in) long; wings don’t quite reach tip of abdomen.
- In longer grassland and shadier places than field grasshopper.
- Song a short series of chirps similar to ‘chicka-chicka-chicka-chicka-chick’.



Speckled Bush-cricket

- A short-bodied bush-cricket with a rather ‘chubby’ appearance. Green with tiny, black dots only visible with close observation. Wings very small. Length 10mm – 18mm (3/8in – 3/4in).
- Occurs in tall or rough vegetation, brambles, bushes and scrub in sunny places, and sometimes comes into houses.
- Song virtually inaudible, except with bat detector.



Oak Bush-cricket

- A small bush-cricket, pale green in colour. Wings are long, so easily separable from speckled bush-cricket. Length 13mm – 17mm (1/2in – 3/4in).
- Found in woodland, hedges and trees. Nocturnal and attracted to light, so often comes into houses.
- No song.



Dark Bush-cricket

- Medium-sized bush-cricket. Brown or greyish brown in colour. Wings tiny and inconspicuous. 13mm – 20mm (1/2in – 3/4in) long.
- Found in scrub, bramble and rough vegetation.
- Song is a short, harsh, single chirp. Commonly sings at night when other grasshoppers and bush-crickets are inactive. Adults can survive into November or December.



Roesel’s Bush-cricket

- Medium-sized, brown bush-cricket. Broad, yellow (sometimes bright green) edge to the saddle-shaped ‘pronotum’ is distinctive. Wings usually about half the length of the abdomen, though sometimes much longer. 13mm – 20mm (1/2in – 3/4in) long.
- Found in tall grassy vegetation, such as road verges.
- Song a high-pitched, continuous buzz.

