

# Mormon Cricket Grasshopper Program FAQ

## Division of Plant Health and Compliance

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### **About NDA Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper program**

This program is a cooperative effort between USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), and the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA). The primary objective of this program is crop and rangeland forage protection, as well as public safety (roads and water supply).

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Does NDA treat private land?**

No. However, private **rangeland** that is within a PPQ aerial program can be treated under a cost share (1/3 PPQ, 1/3 state, and 1/3 private) if it meets the specific requirements. Contact the NDA for more information.

#### **Does NDA treat public land?**

Yes. The program is primarily designed to treat and protect public rangeland (Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service). PPQ has agreements with these agencies and tribal entities for Mormon Cricket and grasshopper treatments.

Treatments conducted can be either ground baiting or aerial treatments. Once a treatment has occurred (either ground or aerial) that area cannot be treated again during that calendar year.

Aerial pesticide applications are conducted on large blocks of land of 5000 acres or more. We use a product called “diflubenzuron” (also called “Dimilin” and various other brand names) for aerial treatments and various carbaryl baits for ground treatments.

#### **Does NDA give away bait?**

No. Currently the NDA does not provide bait to the general public; however, we are exploring options for increased cooperation with local government entities. Bait may be obtained from local feed, seed, and nursery stores. The user is legally required to follow the label to protect themselves, others, animals, and the environment. The label may vary between brands regarding application rate and type of site (i.e. rangelands or lawn)

#### **What ways can crickets be controlled on your private land?**

Baits are products that the crickets eat or consume. Baits are an attractant for the crickets. Granular, sprays, and dusts must have contact with the insect to be effective. Baits containing carbaryl are the most effective way to control crickets on a limited scale. Other over-the-counter sprays may be used as well. These methods generally require reapplication as the crickets move through an area. For large scale infestations, aerial applications can be made with pesticides registered for the site.

Crickets may also be kept out of an area using a cricket fence. These are vertical barriers of heavy plastic, 20 to 24 inches high, and sealed to the ground. Mormon crickets cannot fly, and the plastic is slick enough that they are unable to climb it, forcing them to go around. Do not wrap tree trunks and other plants with the plastic as this may kill the plant but may be used with a foot of space between the plant and the plastic.

### **Where can you report cricket populations?**

The Mormon Cricket and Grasshopper Reporting Form is available at [agri.nv.gov/entomology](http://agri.nv.gov/entomology). Crickets may also be reported directly to the state Entomologist, **Jeff Knight** at [jknight@agri.nv.gov](mailto:jknight@agri.nv.gov).

### **How long will the crickets be around?**

Generally, Mormon Crickets hatch between mid-March and mid-April and become adults in late June. Only one generation hatch per year. Egg laying starts several weeks after becoming adults and each female may lay 80 to 100 eggs in the soil. The Mormon Cricket life cycle and reproduction are highly dependent on temperature. In some cases, crickets may continue into the fall, but are usually gone by early August.

Crickets can move up to a mile a day. Bands of crickets may move in and out of an area within a couple days.

### **Is the bait attractive to crickets?**

Yes, bait will attract crickets, typically within a couple hundred feet. Bait will not attract Mormon crickets from miles away.

Always place bait away from homes or other areas where children or animals might play and always follow the labels instructions. Placing baits along property lines is generally the best strategy.

### **Contacts**

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