

What Does this Species Look Like?

Size: About 1 inch

Color: Black to dark reddish brown

General: Large back legs, two antennae

Usually Found: Grassy habitats, fields, pastures, lawns, woods, forest edges

Did You Know?

- Field crickets (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*) are often heard chirping on warm nights. It is possible to estimate the temperature based on the frequency of their chirps.
- Males chirp 2-3 times per second to attract a mate. They do this by rubbing their front wings together.
- Once a female is drawn to a male, the male moves back in forth in a type of courtship “dance”.
- Crickets can invade homes and become a nuisance, chirping from underneath appliances and inside walls.
- Crickets can also be helpful to humans. They eat the eggs and pupae of pest insects and the seeds of some weeds, such as crabgrass and pigweed.

What am I Observing?

The timing (date) of:

- The first time a cricket is seen
- The first time a cricket is heard chirping

Why Collect this Data?

This species is being monitored as a part of the Eastern PA Phenology Program to determine if this insect is impacted by environmental changes.

How Do I Report this Data?

Observations can be reported as comments to the Eastern PA Phenology Blog:
<http://watchingtheseasons.blogspot.com/>
or sent to phenology@lgnc.org

Want to Find Out More?

Contact Diane Husic, Audubon *TogetherGreen* Fellow,
phenology@lgnc.org

What is Phenology? According to the National Phenology Network, phenology refers to the study of “recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds.”

(www.usanpn.org)