

Giant Australian Grasshopper or Hedge Grasshopper (*Valanga irregularis*)

The Giant Australian Grasshopper or Hedge Grasshopper (*Valanga irregularis* - *Orthoptera: Acrididae*) is fairly common across Northern Australia from Carnarvon to Northern NSW. It can be an occasional pest in nurseries and plantations and also in home gardens. During the last few years there are more and more observations in the south west. The species can exhibit a wide range of colour and pattern variations but consistently has black antenna and the red spines with black tips on the hind tibia. Despite being native they do love citrus so I would expect that it is the same species (or possibly specimen) that are being found in Toodyay. Control methods are limited to hand removal (best to wear strong gardening gloves as the spines can be sharp and it can also bite) and placing in the freezer to kill them. Insecticides and chemicals are not effective. If you can encourage insect eating birds into the garden (such as wattle birds, willy wagtails, magpie-lark/peewee/peewit/mudlark) they can help control numbers when the grasshoppers are very small and vulnerable.

If you come across any interesting finds please feel free to use the **MyPestGuide** reporter app, either online or on mobile device <https://mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au/reporter/#/>

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