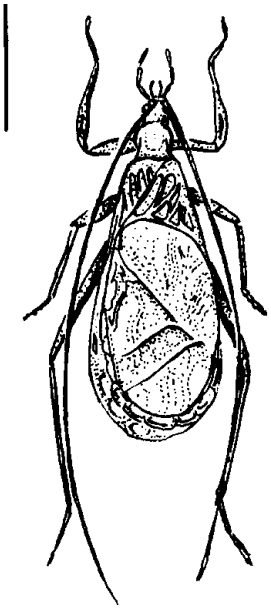
# SNOWY TREE CRICKET Orthoptera: Gryllidae *Oecanthus fultoni*

## DESCRIPTION

**Adults** are pale green with four white transparent wings that average about 14 mm long. Antennae are longer than the body and have a single black spot on each of the first two segments. **Nymphs** are nearly white, wingless, and closely resemble adults except in size. **Eggs** are pale yellow, kidney-shaped, and about 3 mm long. Eggs are inserted in the pith of the host in rows containing as many as 50 to 75 eggs.



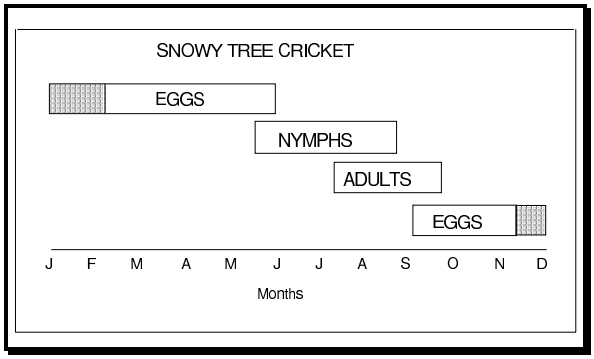
(after CA Ext. Serv. Circ. 87)

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

This insect causes damage to cane fruits such as raspberry, blackberry, loganberry, ornamentals, and tree fruit such as apple, cherry, pear, and plum. Canes or stems with egg punctures frequently die back above the punctures or are weakened and split and break off. Egg punctures also serve as entrance points for tree and cane berry diseases. Nymphs feed on flowers, young fruit, and foliage. Adults feed on ripe fruits making them unmarketable.

## DISTRIBUTION AND LIFE HISTORY

The snowy tree cricket is distributed throughout the northwestern United States and northward into British Columbia. These insects overwinter in the egg stage in twigs and canes. Eggs hatch in late May and early June, and nymphs feed on the foliage and fruit for about two months. Nymphs mature in August, and adults lay overwintering eggs in twigs and canes. There is only one generation each year.




## MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

Pruning out and burning the canes containing eggs in early April will help reduce the population. Plants should be examined during late May and June for the presence of nymphs on the foliage. Nymphs make irregular-shaped holes in the leaves. The population of nymphs can be sampled with a beating sheet. To estimate the population of nymphs, place the sheet beneath the canes and hit the foliage to dislodge the nymphs (other insects including beneficials also will be dislodged and should be counted). Usually no control is needed for snowy tree cricket in fields where an insecticide program is used prebloom to control other insect pests. If insecticides are needed, they should be used when nymphs are small (prior to mid-July). See the Pacific Northwest Insect Control Handbook for a list of registered insecticides. Follow recommendations carefully to prevent killing important pollinators and natural enemies.