

Fact sheet

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Table 1	Risk and	control	periods	for	katvdid	activity	
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	Flowering		Fruit drop	Golf ball			Colour break			Maturation	
Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
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Description

Katydids are similar to grasshoppers but have much longer antennae. There are several katydid species.

Immature: nymphs resemble adults but with shorter wings. First instars are mottled green and brown, but become solid green as they mature (Figure 1).

Adults: are 40–50 mm long. Adult citrus katydids and inland katydids are green. Adult spotted katydids are olive green and brown with dark-brown markings on the wings and body.

Life cycle

There is one generation per year with eggs laid mostly from January to April. Nymphs hatch in early spring and feed on newly set fruit in mid-October to November (Table 1). Adult stage is reached during December and January after 5 instar stages.

Damage

Katydids feed on young foliage, flowers, and young fruit (Figure 2). Fruit up to 30 mm in diameter are susceptible. The fruit damage results in large, chalky white scars on mature fruit (Figure 3). Most citrus varieties are susceptible, however, katydids tend to cause most damage to navel oranges.

Threshold: 5% or more fruit showing fresh injury.

Risk period: petal fall to mid-December (Table 1).

Monitoring

Check fruit according to monitoring protocols for signs of damage and scan the foliage for insects.

Management and control

Cultural: orchards adjoining bushland can have higher katydid pressure. Skirting and weed control can help.

Biological: assassin bugs, praying mantis, jumping spiders and birds all feed on katydids but generally do not provide effective control.

Chemical: katydids are easily controlled with registered insecticides. Discuss IPM rates and strategies with your pest consultant. Timely control is essential as small numbers of katydids can quickly cause considerable damage. Infestations are usually patchy so use insecticides in problem areas.

More information

Smith D, Beattie GA and Broadley R. 1997. *Citrus pests and their natural enemies: integrated pest management in Australia*. Queensland Department of Primary Industries, pp. 155 to 157.



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Figure 1. Citrus katydid nymph.



Figure 2. Katydid damage to developing fruit.



Figure 3. Katydid damage to mature fruit.



IPDM for the citrus industry











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