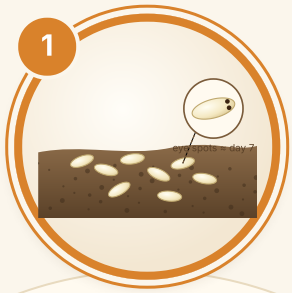
GARAGE CRICKET FARM · FIELD CHART

The Cricket Life Cycle

From a grain-of-rice egg to a chirping breeder, and which tote each stage lives in

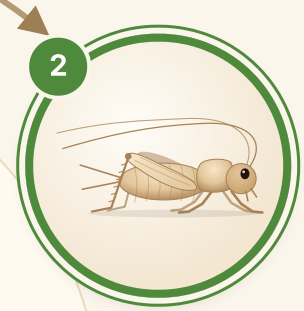


Egg

8 to 14 days

2 to 3 mm (about 1/10 in)

INCUBATOR

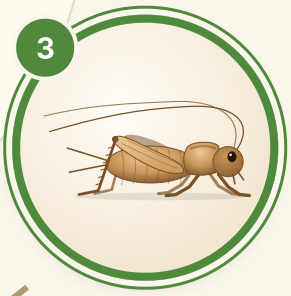


Pinhead

Days 0 to 7 after hatch

Under 1/8 in

GROW-OUT

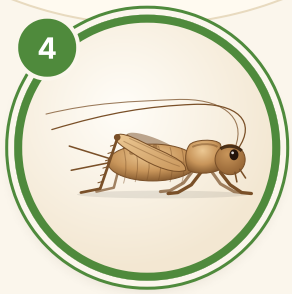


Small nymph

About 2 weeks old

About 1/4 in

GROW-OUT

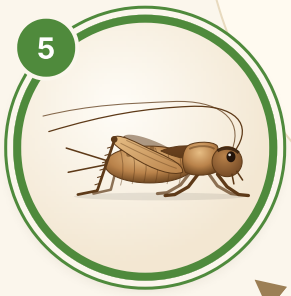


Medium nymph

About 3 to 4 weeks old

About 1/2 in

GROW-OUT

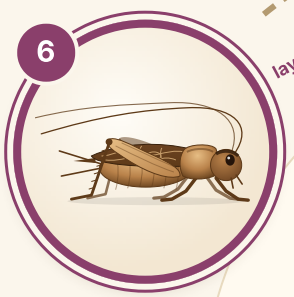


Large nymph

About 5 to 6 weeks old

About 3/4 in

GROW-OUT



Adult

From about 6 to 7 weeks old

About 3/4 to 1 in

BREEDER

lays the next batch

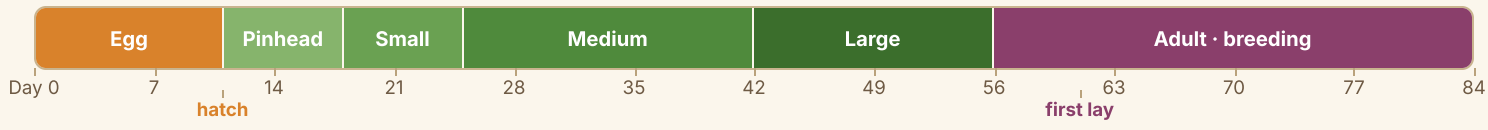
EGG TO ADULT

≈ 57 days

About 2 months from a fresh lay to the next generation of breeders, if the totes stay at 86 to 90°F

- Incubator, tote 3
- Grow-out, totes 4 to 7
- Breeders, totes 1 and 2

DAYS FROM THE MOMENT EGGS ARE LAID (HOUSE CRICKETS AT 86 TO 90°F)



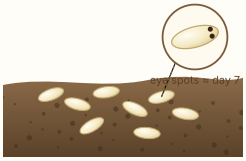
Timings for house crickets (Acheta domesticus) held at 86 to 90°F. Cooler totes run slower. Banded crickets follow a similar schedule.

STAGE BY STAGE

What each stage looks like and what it needs

1 Egg

INCUBATOR · TOTE 3

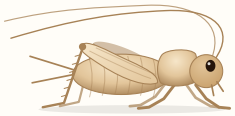


HOW LONG	8 to 14 days
SIZE	2 to 3 mm (about 1/10 in)
LOOKS	Yellowish-white, shaped like a grain of rice, buried in moist substrate.

- Hold at 86 to 90°F and 65 to 75% humidity
- Keep the substrate moist, never soggy. Eggs that dry out once usually die
- Two dark eye spots show up around day 7: hatching is a few days away

2 Pinhead

GROW-OUT · TOTES 4 TO 7

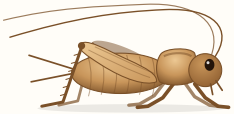


HOW LONG	Days 0 to 7 after hatch
SIZE	Under 1/8 in
LOOKS	Pale, almost white at hatch, darkening within hours. Tiny and fragile.

- Run the warm end, 88 to 92°F
- Water gel or crystals only: they drown in open water
- Finely ground feed on egg flat, and disturb the tote as little as you can

3 Small nymph

GROW-OUT · TOTES 4 TO 7

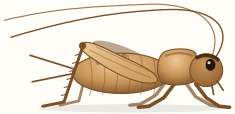


HOW LONG	About 2 weeks old
SIZE	About 1/4 in
LOOKS	Tan, wingless, shaped like a small adult. Sheds its skin every few days as it grows.

- Full feed and fresh water gel every 3 to 5 days
- Remove dead crickets every day or two
- Sold as "small" to reptile and frog keepers

4 Medium nymph

GROW-OUT · TOTES 4 TO 7

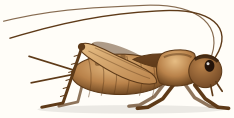


HOW LONG	About 3 to 4 weeks old
SIZE	About 1/2 in
LOOKS	Darker brown, still wingless. Eating and growing at its fastest.

- Your biggest feed week: keep food and water topped up
- Add egg flats so they spread out and don't crowd
- Sold as "medium", the most requested pet store size

5 Large nymph

GROW-OUT · TOTES 4 TO 7

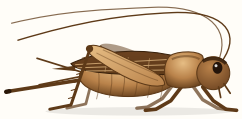


HOW LONG	About 5 to 6 weeks old
SIZE	About 3/4 in
LOOKS	Small wing pads appear behind the head. Females show a short ovipositor stub.

- Sell as "large", or harvest the batch now
- Pick about 600 healthy ones to restock a breeder tote
- Sell before they mature if you don't want chirping

6 Adult

BREEDER · TOTES 1 AND 2



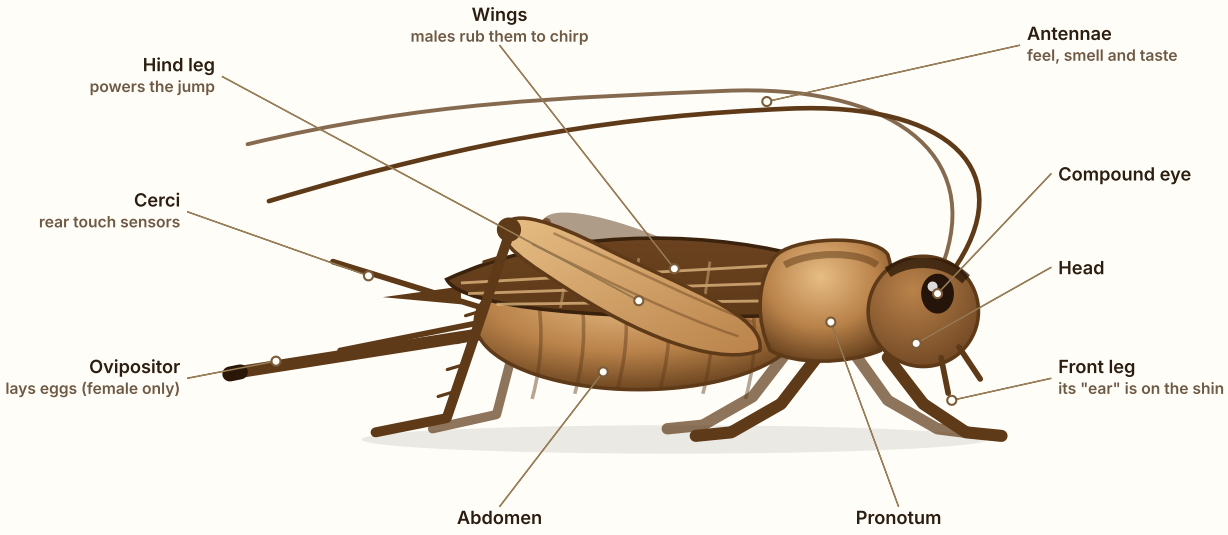
HOW LONG	From about 6 to 7 weeks old
SIZE	About 3/4 to 1 in
LOOKS	Full wings. Males chirp; females carry a long needle-like ovipositor for laying eggs.

- Add a lay container 3 to 5 days after males start chirping
- Pull each lay container after 24 to 48 hours, date it, move it to the incubator
- Retire breeders after 3 to 4 weeks of laying

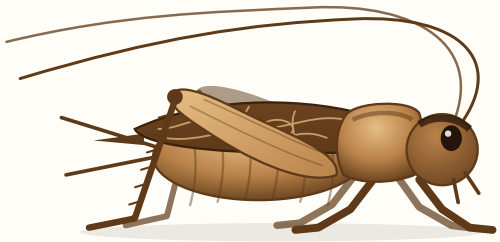
Sizes are body length, not counting antennae. Ages are counted from the day the eggs hatch unless noted.

KNOW YOUR CRICKETS

Parts of an adult cricket

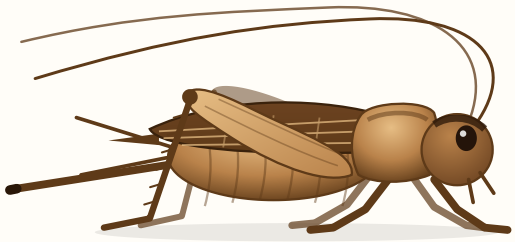


Male



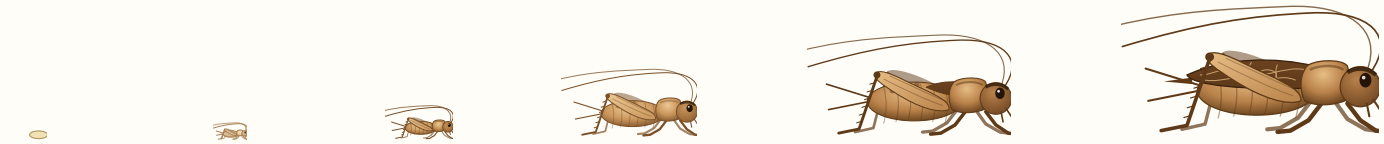
- No ovipositor, only two short cerci at the tail
- Wings wrinkled with curvy veins: this is the file and scraper he rubs to chirp
- Chirping means the batch is mature. Lay containers go in 3 to 5 days later

Female



- Long, thin ovipositor between the cerci, like a third tail
- Wings smooth with straight veins. Females are silent
- Pushes the ovipositor into moist substrate to lay eggs. Keep plenty of females in each breeder tote

ACTUAL SIZE · PRINT AT 100%, NO SCALING



Egg	Pinhead	Small	Medium	Large	Adult
≈ 1/10 in	1/8 in	1/4 in	1/2 in	3/4 in	≈ 1 in

The loop that keeps the farm running: every 6 to 8 weeks, hold back about 600 crickets from a healthy large-nymph batch and move them into an empty breeder tote. They become the next breeding group while the old breeders are retired after 3 to 4 weeks of laying. Never move eggs or young back into a tote with adults.