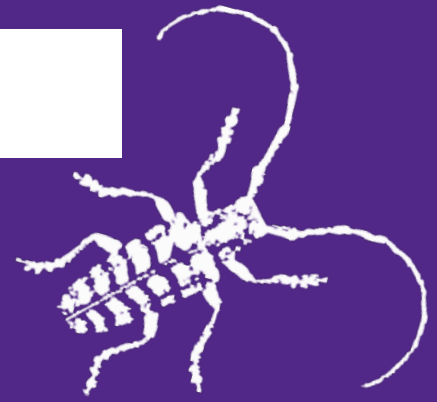


Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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Large Milkweed Bug
ID to last week's bug
Bug Joke of the Week

Large Milkweed Bug

We are receiving inquiries regarding the large milkweed bug, *Oncopeltus fasciatus*, nymphs and adults feeding on the seed pods of milkweed (*Asclepias* spp) plants (Figure 1). Large milkweed bug adults are 9/16 to 5/8 inches (10 to 18 mm) in length, with black and orange markings on the body (Figure 2). There are five nymphal instars before becoming adults. Females lay eggs on milkweed seed pods or in crevices between the seed pods. Females can lay up to 30 eggs per day and approximately 2,000 over her lifetime, which is about one month in the summer. The adults contain



Figure 1. Large Milkweed Bug Adults And Nymphs Feeding On Milkweed Seed Pod (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

toxic compounds that are obtained from the plant fluids during feeding, which protects them from predators. Large milkweed bugs cause minimal damage to milkweed plants and are present for a short

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period. Large milkweed bugs overwinter as adults. There may be one to several generations per year in Kansas

Figure 2. Large Milkweed Bug Adult (Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Raymond Cloyd

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ID to last week's bug

Dragonfly: The image is of a twelve spotted skimmer. This skimmer acquired its name from the twelve black spots that can be view on the wings. It can usually be found perching on vegetation around ponds, slow moving streams, and marshy areas.

Can you identify this insect?



Frannie Miller

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Bug Joke of the Week

Q: What kind of fly has a frog in its throat?

A: A hoarse fly!

Sharon Schroll

HOME

Sincerely,

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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service

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