

# Large Milkweed Bug

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FIG. 1

Type of Pest: piercing/sucking insect

Type of Metamorphous: simple (egg, nymph, adult stages)

Other Common Names: Milkweed Bug

Period of Primary Occurrence: summer

Plants Affected: Milkweed (butterfly weed)

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Milkweed bugs are very colorful
- Adults are  $\frac{9}{16}$  –  $\frac{10}{16}$ " long, black with reddish-orange on head, sides of pronotum and wing covers
- Milkweed bugs have Y-shaped head markings and crossing orange bands across the wings
- They have long sucking mouth parts
- They are found in small groups on milkweed plants, usually under the leaves
- Easy to breed and are used extensively in research

Description / Symptoms

- Milkweed bugs pierce the walls of seed pods to feed on the seed and they eat the green tissue of plants

Best Management Practices (BMP)

**NONCHEMICAL**

- They have few natural predators because they taste bad from compounds found in the milkweed plant
- Pest if you are raising milkweed plants for butterflies

**CHEMICAL**

- Not required but if infestation is severe, plant oil sprays and neem products can be tried



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

## Sources

<http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/youth/bug/bug027.html>

<http://www.life.uiuc.edu/ib/109/Insect%20rearing/milkweedbug.html>

<http://entomology.uark.edu/museum/milkbug.html>



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

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