October 2, 2020, No 24

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

Raymond Cloyd

**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.

Frannie Miller
Bug Joke of the Week

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

Sharon Schroll

Sincerely,

Raymond A. Cloyd
Professor and Extension Specialist
Horticultural Entomology/Integrated Pest Management
Phone: 785-532-4750
Fax: 785-532-6232
e-mail: rcloyd@ksu.edu

Frannie Miller
Pesticide Safety & IPM Coordinator
Kansas State University
600 W. Woodside
McPherson, KS 67460
Phone: (620) 241-1523
Fax: (620) 241-3407
http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/pesticides-ipm
Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact LOCAL NAME, PHONE NUMBER. (For TDD, contact Michelle White-Godinet, Assistant Director of Affirmative Action, Kansas State University, 785-532-4807.)

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service