

# A Bug's Life American cockroach

*Periplaneta americana*

## Fun facts

- Largest cockroach in NE, called palmetto bug in southern locations
- Worldwide distribution
- Most common species found in city sewer systems and storm drains
- Preference for hot (80°F), moist places
- Enter buildings from belowground
- Feed on many things, especially fermenting foods
- Does not fly in Nebraska but does fly in southern regions

## Identification

Ootheca/egg capsule: 3/8" long, reddish-black, contains 14-16 eggs

Nymphs: Oval shape, reddish-brown

Adult: 1-3/8" to 2-1/8" long, reddish brown, pale brown to yellowish halo and rounded "M" shape around pronotal shield behind head; both male and female are fully winged, with males' wings extending past the tip of the abdomen

## Management

- Inspect incoming items entering large commercial buildings and businesses
- Sanitation for commercial kitchens, restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores
- Use sticky traps to locate entryways
- Baits are effective to reduce populations
- Sewers may need to be treated with residual products
- Contact property management or pest management company for service

