A Bug's Life

Fun facts
- All species can be found in the garden in large numbers, more of a nuisance than a threat to plants

Host plants
- Large and small milkweed bugs feed on milkweed seeds and false milkweed bug feeds on seeds of false sunflower

Identification
- Large: 3/4" long, black diamond behind head and black band across wings
- Small: 1/2" long, black heart shape and white spots on wings
- False: 1/2" long, black double-heart and red "Y" on head

Management
- In most cases, management is not needed to control any of these bugs
- Simplest way to remove is to tap pods with nymphs over soapy water bucket
- Garden sanitation to remove leaf litter and eliminate overwintering sites
- Treating milkweed with insecticides may be harmful to beneficial insects

Photos: J. Green

Large milkweed bug - Oncopeltus fasciatus; Small milkweed bug - Lygaeus kalmii; False milkweed bug - Lygaeus turcicus

Phone: 402-444-7804       Email: Douglas-Sarpy@unl.edu

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based upon any protected status. Please see go.unl.edu/nondiscrimination. Copyright 2020