

Milkweed Assassin Bugs



Like other true bugs, **Milkweed Assassin Bugs** have an egg, nymph and adult stage. Eggs are small, brown and cylindrical. Nymphs resemble adults in shape and color, but lack wings. The nymphs go through a series of five molts before becoming productive adults. Young nymphs are small (<0.5 inches) and primarily orange-bodied with black legs. Development from egg to adult lasts approximately two months with faster development occurring in warmer months when food is abundant.

Diet and feeding behavior— Milkweed Assassin Bugs are generalist predators. They feed on a great diversity of insects and other arthropods. These bugs are important biological control agents of many garden pests. Pest species commonly preyed upon include armyworms, tomato worms, aphids, mealy bugs, leaf beetles and many others herbivorous insects.

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A **Milkweed Assassin Bug bite** is not dangerous to humans, but it can be highly unpleasant - an intense burning feeling and an itchy bump at the site of the bite or sting.