FYN Topic: Native Milkweeds, Asclepias

Question: Milkweed bugs leave nothing on my scarlet milkweed for monarch caterpillars to eat. Would you control them? Chaz via email

Answer: No, the milkweed bug feeding is less of an issue than the type of milkweed you have. Milkweed bugs always feed in small groups and continuously strip plants bare. Recent research has found scarlet milkweed Asclepias curassavica, negatively impacts our population of monarchs living and reproducing in South Florida. It would be better to remove the scarlet milkweed and replant using only one of the native milkweed species like butterflyweed, A. tuberosa, swamp milkweed A. incarnata or Curtis milkweed, A. curtisii.

Useful Links

http://www.floridayards.org
http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/
http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/FYN/FYNHome.shtml
http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu