

## Harlequin Bug (*Murgantia histrionica*)

**Other common names:** Calico bug, Fire bug, Terrapin back.

**Distribution:** Originated in Central America and Mexico. Introduced and widespread in the southern U.S. (from Florida to California) reaching north to Colorado, Minnesota, and New Hampshire. Found also in Hawaii.

**Hosts and damage:** A pest of crop plants from *Brassicaceae* (*Cruciferae*) family (watercress, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, kale, turnip, mustard, radish, etc.). May also attack okra, beans, tomato, squash, potato and others. Adults and nymphs suck juices of host plants producing stippled, wilted areas on the leaves.

**Field ID: Adults** (7.5-11.0 mm long) have black, shield-shaped bodies with variable pattern of yellow, orange and red. **Nymphs** pass through 5 instars. First instar has light orange abdomen with black markings and brown head and thorax. Later instars add more black color to their bodies with contrasting bright yellow and red. **Eggs** are barrel-shaped, grayish-yellow with two black bands. Females lay them in clusters beneath the leaves.

