

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

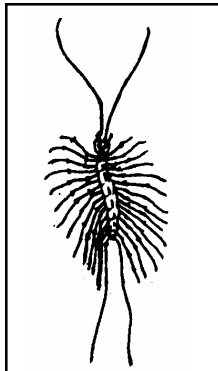
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Cooperative Extension
Nassau County

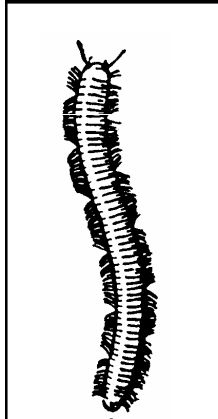


Nassau County
Horticulture Program
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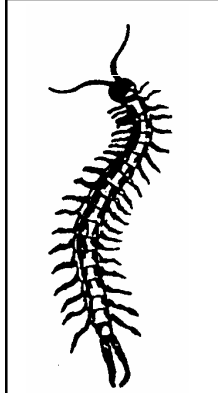
Centipedes and Millipedes



House Centi-



Millipede



Centipede

Neither house centipedes nor millipedes damage food supplies or household furnishings. Millipedes feed on decaying vegetable matter such as rotting leaves and wood. Centipedes and house centipedes are predaceous, feeding on insects, spiders and other small animals. They do not cause damage to plants. Neither has a poisonous bite. However, the presence of these pests can be annoying.

Habits

Centipedes and millipedes normally live outdoors. In some areas, however, one species of long-legged centipede thrives indoors, where it feeds on soft-bodied insects and spiders.

Millipedes may be driven into homes by heavy rain or extreme dryness during fall and summer. When these migrations occur, hundreds or even thousands of millipedes may invade garages, basements, porches and lower floors of homes.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce problems. Always use the least toxic methods first.

A good mechanical control, in many instances, is to vacuum the insects and then throw the bag away. Regarding household pests, in addition to regular house-cleaning, the best preventive method is to monitor the home, i.e. note any cracks in foundations, air spaces between windows and frames, poorly-fitting doors, moisture from leaks, etc., and correct such examples/situations.

Management

Keep ground-level entrance areas free of rotting leaves and debris. Trim or remove shrubs to promote air circulation and drying near foundation. Sweep up and destroy millipedes daily. In very moist years large numbers of millipedes may move near foundations to escape excessive soil moisture, and control may be difficult.

Chemical pesticides are available. If you choose to use chemical pesticides, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

"This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office (631) 444-0340. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell Cooperative Extension and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied."

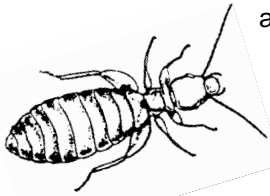
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Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. NYS College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, NYS College of Human Ecology, and NYS College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, Cooperative Extension associations, county governing bodies, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, cooperating.

Psocids (book lice)



Psocids or book lice are pale, soft-bodied, flattened insects that live in cracks and wall spaces of warm, dark, damp areas. These wingless, 1mm long creatures feed on microscopic molds and starch materials such as cereals, paste and glue of books and wallpaper. Except for occasional contamination of foodstuffs, the damage they do is negligible. Although they have biting mouth parts, they bite neither humans nor animals.

Psocids flourish in humid, undisturbed situations. They are more numerous in the spring and summer and seem to disappear in the winter when the dry heat of homes reduces the humidity and the fungi on which they feed. They are often found in new buildings until time and age thoroughly dry out the wood and plaster. Book lice are commonly found scurrying around books and papers, especially when they are stored in a damp location.

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Management

- Reduce dampness on which psocids thrive and introduce as much light and sunshine as possible to the area. Use a fan to increase air circulation and a dehumidifier.
- Books or other articles infested or prone to infestation can be sealed in a heavy duty plastic bag containing a vapona-impregnated plastic resin strip normally used for fly control.
- If needed, apply household crack and crevice aerosol spray to all cracks and crevices. Close all openings where practical with a sealer such as caulking, cement, etc.

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