

# A Bug's Life

# European earwig

*Forficula auricularia*

## Fun facts

- Do not crawl into ears
- Hide in cool, dark, tight places
- Feed on plant and animal matter
- Use pincers for mating and defense
- Female earwigs provide maternal care to eggs and nymphs
- Capable of flight, but rarely seen in flight

## Identification

Earwig: Slender, flexible, flattened bodies, bead-like antennae, large pincers/forceps at tip of abdomen, short wing covers

Male: Curved pincers with teeth

Female: Straight pincers

## Management

- Trapping with wooden boards, rolled up newspaper or baited pitfall trap sunken in the soil
- Insecticide bait at night
- Reduce clutter and leaf litter
- Exclusion practices for structures
- Exterior perimeter spray if home barrier is needed



Photos: J. Green