

A Bug's Life

Millipedes

Class: Diplopoda

Fun facts

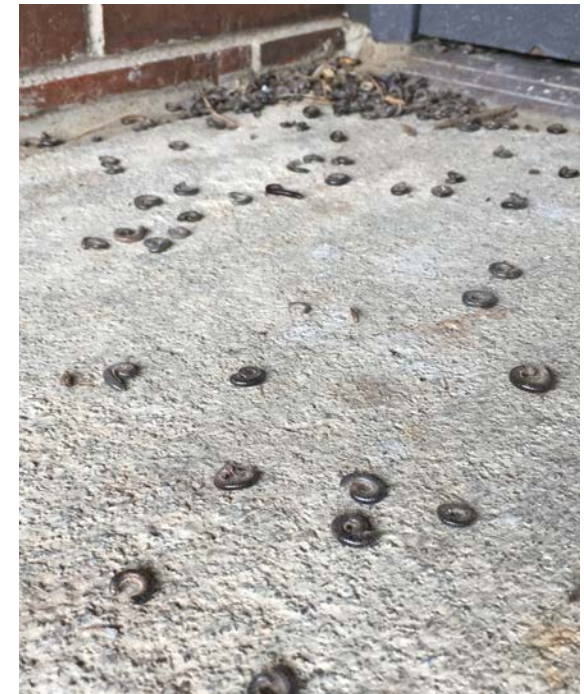
- Decomposers that feed on decaying leaves and dead plant matter
- Millipedes have a varying number of legs, but never 1000
- Require moist microhabitat so usually found in soil and leaf litter under rocks or logs
- Can be a plant pest in greenhouses

Identification

Vary in length and number of legs, cylindrical or flattened bodies, 2 pairs of legs per body segment, can be a variety of colors, slow moving
Defense mechanisms: curl up when disturbed, secrete an array of chemicals to protect from predation

Management

- Physical exclusion - caulking and sealing holes, screening, door seals
- Trap with glue boards, sweep or vacuum them up
- Reduce moisture and humidity
- Perimeter spray of insecticide to exterior of home will kill millipedes but not stop them from coming out of soil



Photos: J. Green