

# A Bug's Life

# Pillbug and Sowbug

Order: Isopoda; Pillbug Family - Armadillidiidae; Sowbug Family - Oniscidae

## Fun facts

- Sometimes called roly-poly or wood louse and are land crustaceans
- Decomposers that feed on decaying leaves and dead plant matter
- Require moist microhabitat so usually found in soil and leaf litter under rocks or logs
- Can be a plant pest in greenhouses

## Identification

Oval shaped, 11 body segments and 7 pairs of legs, usually gray or brown color, slow moving  
Pillbug: 1/4" to 1/2" long, can roll up into a ball because they lack appendages at the end of body  
Sowbug: all of the above but with tail-like appendages

## Management

- Harmless to people and pets
- Physical exclusion - Caulk and seal holes, screening, door seals
- Trap with glue boards, sweep or vacuum them up
- Reduce moisture and humidity
- Food source for many predators and are rarely a serious pest



Photos: J. Green