

# Dooryard Pests

## Occasional Invaders

IS THERE GOING TO BE IDENTIFICATION OF  
earwigs, psocids, springtails, sowbugs, millipedes

There are a number of insect and related pests that occasionally invade the home or appear in large numbers outside. They are usually not a threat and temporary in nature.



**Earwigs** are frightening looking with their large pinchers at the rear. They rarely cause a problem. Mostly they are nesting and feeding on the decaying vegetation around your home, and occasionally migrate inside during a hot summer day. (See 25b Earwigs for more information)



**Psocids** are also known as “Book Lice.” They are very common but because of their small size often go unnoticed. They feed on microscopic molds and fungi and therefore are most numerous in damp, warm and undisturbed locations. While they normally live outdoors under bark, in grass, leaves or damp wood, they will occasionally invade a house. They are harmless and do not cause destruction.



**Springtails** sometimes cause alarm to homeowners when seen outdoors in enormous numbers, appearing as “piles of soot” in driveways or backyards. These small leaping insects do not bite humans, spread disease or cause damage. Most feed on fungi and decaying vegetable matter.



**Lady Bugs** are supposed to be beneficial in your garden, and they can be, helping to eliminate aphids. Occasionally, however, they will congregate in large numbers and enter buildings looking for places to over winter. They do not carry diseases or sting, but can become an annoying pest. It is usually best to vacuum them up and try to put up with them. They can be difficult to eliminate.



**Sowbugs and Pillbugs** are similar-looking pests which are more closely akin to shrimp and crayfish than to insects. They live in moist environments outdoors but occasionally end up in buildings. They do not bite, sting or transmit diseases, nor infest food, clothing or wood. They mainly feed on decaying matter. They are found under boards, stones, flower pots and items on the damp ground. The most effective way to minimize the entry indoors is to minimize moisture and hiding places near the foundation.



Millipede



Centipede

Like their names imply the **Millipede** has a lot of legs (though not a thousand) and the **Centipede** has a lot less (though still a lot). Millipedes have high moisture needs and are usually found in areas of decaying vegetation, such as under trash or grass clippings. They are harmless. Centipedes have poison jaws, but rarely cause a problem to humans in our area.

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