

## Pest Profile



Photo Credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

**Common Name:** European Earwig

**Scientific Name:** *Forficula auricularia* Linnaeus

**Order and Family:** Dermaptera: Forficulidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1.13mm x 0.85mm	Oval to elliptical, swelling with moisture through development. Usually 30 – 60 eggs in a cluster, protected and maintained by the female.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		Light gray darkening to light brown throughout development. All four nymphal stages resemble adults. Early immature stage wings are not developed, but small abdominal cerci are present.
<b>Adult</b>	13mm – 16mm	Reddish-brown with yellow-brown legs. Pincher-like cerci, used for defense and mating, can range from 5 – 9.5mm. Adults are active at night and are seldom seen flying.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** The European earwig has chewing mouth parts.

**Host plants:** The European earwig feeds on a wide variety of plant and animal matter including bean, beet, cabbage, celery, chard, cauliflower, corn, cucumber, lettuce, pea, potato, rhubarb, and tomato. Flowers include dahlia, carnation, pinks, sweet William, and zinnia. Fruit that are ripened include apple, apricot, peach, plum, pear, and strawberry.

**Special note:** The European earwig is also known to be predator of aphids, spiders, caterpillar pupae, leaf beetle eggs, scale insects, spiders, and springtails.

**Description of damage (larvae and adults):** Third and fourth stage nymphs and adults cause damage to new foliage and flower petals that can range from numerous small holes to being completely devoured. Damage to fruit and vegetables with tiny holes as well as fecal contamination can occur.

**References:**

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