

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Cynthia Bingham Keiser, bugguide.net

Common Name: Millipede

Scientific Name: Class Diplopoda. Millipedes have many species; the scientific name for greenhouse/garden millipede is *Oxidus gracilis*

Order and Family: Many (16 orders, and about 145 families); for greenhouse/garden millipede is Polydesmida, Paradoxosomatidae.

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	About 0.4 mm in diameter	- White, creamy yellow, or brown; millipede eggs are smooth, spherical in shape.
Larva/Nymph		- Newly hatched millipedes have 3-4 pairs of legs, additional body segments and legs appear with each molt. - Lighter in color
Adult	13 to 38 mm long	- Elongate and worm-like; cylindrical segmented bodies with two (more common) or four pairs of legs per body segment. - Typically reddish, brown, or black in color. - When disturbed, most millipedes curl up.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing, both larvae and adults.

Host plant/s: Many species are detritivores, although some eat various crops including potatoes, sugar beet, carrots, sweet potato, strawberries, peas, and beans.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Millipedes normally feed on rotting leaves, rotting wood and other kinds of moist, decaying plant matter. Generally, their role is a beneficial one in helping to break down dead plant matter. However, when they become numerous, they may damage sprouting seeds, seedlings, or strawberries and other ripening fruits in contact with the ground. Some species exude venom that irritates and blisters the skin. Both immatures and adults feed on similar material.

References:

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