

# Millipede



UGA Entomology  
Taft Eaker

GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  
ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# MILLIPEDE

FAMILY: Several

ORDER: Spirobolida

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ can grow to over 3 inches long
- ◆ segmented body; one pair of legs on each of first three segments and two pairs of legs (4 legs) on each of the other segments.
- ◆ black or dark brown with reddish or yellow edges



### Where to Look:

Millipedes are found in dark moist places like under logs or leaf litter in woods and fields.

### Who Eats It?

Shrews are the main predator of millipedes. Millipedes are also eaten by frogs, toads and birds. They defend themselves by secreting noxious fluids or by rolling into a tight spiral with the head and tail tucked in.



### LIFE CYCLE

#### INCOMPLETE METAMORPHOSIS

After mating the female millipede eats soil, then poops it out and makes a nest to lay her eggs in. After birth, millipedes grow and molt (shed) several times adding new segments and legs each time.

### What It Eats.

Millipedes eat dead and decaying leaves, flowers and animals like earthworms, snails and insects. They also feed on the fungi growing on dead organisms. They are nocturnal and feed mostly at night.



### Did You Know

Millipedes are in a separate class from insects, but like insects, millipedes have tiny holes called spiracles along the sides of their body segments through which they breathe.

### Role in the Ecosystem

Millipedes are important recyclers.