

Slaters and Pillbugs

Isopoda



What they do

These multi legged crustaceans creep around eating decomposing organic matter. Sometimes they nibble seedlings or fruit, too.

What to look for

Slaters tend to attack plants that are already stressed and not very healthy. They also love to breed in mulched vegetable gardens. Look for seedlings that aren't there in the morning and live slaters/pillbugs under mulch.

What attracts them?

Decomposing organic matter. Dark, moist ground is their preferred hiding spot, where they come out at night and eat decaying vegetable matter.

What controls them?

Sometimes slater numbers get high due to mulch and warm, damp conditions. Beer traps are effective as are half oranges with the flesh removed, face down overnight, and then emptied into soapy water in the mornings. Plastic or cardboard collars around small seedlings can protect them or grow the seedlings on a bit more before planting.

Multiguard Iron Chelate snail pellets also work, crushed and scattered lightly around near newly planted seedlings.



© CSIRO

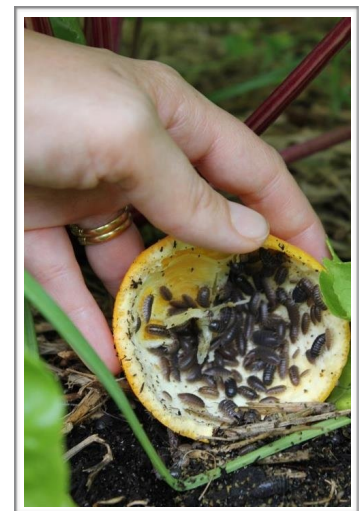


Photo: Green Life Soil Company