

# HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET



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## SILVERFISH

Silverfish are elongated silver-gray insects with two long slender feelers at the head end and three thread-like extensions at the tail end. The body of the insect varies from 1/4-1/2 inch in length. They are usually observed when a light is turned on at night. They scurry over the floors or may be seen hiding on shelves or areas where books and magazines are stored. Silverfish cause damage by eating foods that are high in protein, sugar or starch. They eat cereals, glue or paste used for wallpaper, bookbindings, paper and fabrics.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

### Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce problems. Always use the least toxic methods first. A good mechanical control, in many instances, is to vacuum the insects and then throw the bag away. Regarding household pests, in addition to regular house-cleaning, the best preventive method is to monitor the home, i.e. note any cracks in foundations, air spaces between windows and frames, poorly-fitting doors, moisture from leaks, etc., and correct such examples/situations.

### Management

Silverfish can be controlled by vacuuming, reducing moisture and eliminating hiding places such as piles of magazines and newspapers or corrugated cardboard boxes. In severe infestations, you may need to use commercially-prepared sprays or dusts.

### Sprays

Chemical pesticides are available. If you choose to use chemical pesticides, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

Apply control materials into seams, cracks and crevices where silverfish are a problem. Dust formulations are very useful in out-of-the-way areas where they won't be disturbed. Silica gel materials are useful dusts. Caulk up all unnecessary cracks and crevices.

Sticky boards can also be put in out-of-reach hidden areas to help in reducing a silverfish problem.

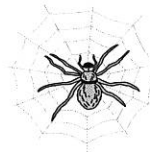
# Silverfish and Spiders



## SPIDERS

Spiders are eight-legged creatures that do not have antennae or feelers. Most insects have visible antennae and all have only six legs. The only spiders in New York that are poisonous to man are the Black Widow and brown recluse. Most other species found in the house do more good than harm. Spiders are beneficial in the garden because they eat harmful insects.

The webs spun by spiders are objectionable when they become numerous. To eliminate the objectionable webs indoors, the spiders must be either screened out, or vacuumed up once they have established themselves. Spiders enter houses in the fall as they search for places to spend the winter. Most spider infestations originate in the basement and unexcavated areas beneath houses.



## Management

1. To prevent spiders, clean up yard and premises. Destroy or clean away tin cans, boxes, debris, dead weeds and tall grass that might provide protection.
2. To exclude spiders, all doors, windows, and other openings of the house from the basement to the attic should be lightly screened. Caulk and seal all unnecessary openings.
3. If spiders do get into the home, vacuum them up.

**WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE,  
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW  
THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

"This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office (631) 444-0340. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell Cooperative Extension and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied."

B-2-15 JES reviewed RT 1/03

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