

## KEEP BUGS OUTDOORS

Ants, spiders, sowbugs and millipedes are just some of the insects that can become a nuisance in your home unless they are properly controlled, according to James A. Fizzell, University of Illinois Extension Horticulturist in Cook County. These insects come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and colors, and can be found in many locations around your home and yard.

Ants live in colonies or nests in the ground. Occasionally, however, they may nest under the concrete slab or in the crawl space of your home.

Ants feed on a variety of materials, Fizzell says. Some species feed on grasses; others, on sugars. The aphid attendant, another ant species, moves aphids or plant lice from plant to plant and uses secretions from the aphid as its food. Ants may become numerous in lawns and gardens as well as indoors, wherever they can find a reliable food source.

There are only two spiders in Illinois that are considered poisonous. However, all spiders use some type of poison to stun their prey and being bitten by any spider is certainly not a pleasant experience. Spiders really belong outdoors where they are most beneficial.

Sowbugs and millepedes feed on organic matter. Indoors, these insects may feed on the backing of some rugs and draperies, or on glues used in book bindings.

The most satisfactory and safest method of controlling these pests is to use 1/2 concentration of DIAZINON (often sold as SPECTRACIDE) as a water-diluted foundation spray. Apply the spray to the point of run-off to the outside foundation of your house from the soil area to one foot above the ground. Also spray a six-inch strip of soil next to the foundation. Crawl-space areas may need treatment if the insects are entering your house from there. A repeat application may be necessary every two weeks until a hard freeze kills the insects outdoors.

Applications must be thorough. Be sure to spray all the way around the house, behind concrete slabs, and into any cracks or crevices of concrete slabs that adjoin the foundation.

**Mr. James A. Fizzell**  
Senior Extension Advisor, Horticulture  
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