

October 16, 2014

AGRIVIEW

By: Rick Hirsch
County Extension Agent

Millipedes and centipedes are minor nuisance pests that tend to move into houses during brief periods in the fall or spring. Millipedes may feed on tender seedlings in greenhouses and gardens. Control is rarely necessary. If required, it primarily should involve moisture control because these arthropods are susceptible to drying.

Millipedes and centipedes generally are found in small numbers in damp locations around the yard. Occasionally, they become unusually abundant or move into homes, where they may cause considerable concern to homeowners.

The most common millipedes are dark brown and reach 1 to 1 ½ inches when full grown. They are round and elongated, with many small legs. When dead or disturbed, they tend to curl into a tight coil.

Millipedes do not bite or pose any danger to humans. They feed on rotting organic matter such as leaves and wood and rarely feed on tender green leaves and roots. They spend almost all their time in moist areas, such as under rocks or logs and in lawn thatch.

Movement into houses often is sudden and sporadic. Most millipede movement takes place in September and October and again in mid spring. Invasions often take place shortly after a period of wet weather and end as suddenly as they start.

Because millipedes require high moisture, they usually die in a home within a day or two. Chronic problems are associated with damp conditions. Measures taken to dry out moist areas usually are sufficient. The hard body of the millipede, however, remains intact for a considerable time after it is dead.

Because millipedes cause no damage in homes other than minor annoyance, the best way to handle infestations is to wait a few days for the problem to subside, then vacuum the bodies that remain. Remove debris and other favorite habitats from around building foundations to help reduce problems. Seal or caulk openings around the foundation to reduce future millipede problems.

Where problems are more severe, band the foundation exterior with an insecticide to prevent movement into homes. Sprays or dusts containing diazinon, malathion, carbaryl (Sevin), (Baygon), pyrethrin or resmethrin applied around building foundations may provide some control.

WINTER WONDERLAND FROM KITCHEN AND GARDEN:

Henderson County Master Gardeners will present their Annual Fall Event, “Winter Wonderland from Kitchen and Garden” on Tuesday, October 21st at First United Methodist Church, 225 E. College at Lover’s Lane in Athens at 6:00 p.m. The conference is free to the public.

Justin Boswell, chef and owner of the Railway Café in Athens, is the keynote speaker. He will demonstrate how to prepare those wonderful fall vegetables harvested from local gardens. Justin and his staff will also share samples of the vegetables and copies of his recipes with attendees.

Boswell is a graduate of Athens High School and the University of Texas at Austin. He began his culinary career at the Kerbey Lane Café while in college. He attended the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco and has worked as the sous chef at the Historic Hotel Boulderado in Boulder, CO.

Upon his return to Austin, he worked at “Wink”, a farm-to-table restaurant. Following the birth of his second child, Boswell and family moved back to Athens in November 2011 and opened the Railway Café on the square. This lunchtime only café serves an eclectic mix of salads and sandwiches, as well as interesting daily specials.

The Railway Café has been favorably reviewed by Texas Monthly and featured in the Dallas Morning News. The acclaimed PBS show “Daytripper” recently filmed an episode in Athens. The station plans to feature the café in their February spotlight on Athens.

Several of the Railway Cafe’s recipes have been selected to appear in the 2015 Southern Living Cookbook. HCMG is thrilled to have Boswell and his staff at the workshop.

Following Boswell’s presentation Master Gardeners Yvonne Varley, Lydia Holley and Yvonne Sparks will demonstrate decorating tips using plants from the garden. These talented ladies will give “how-to” instructions for fall, Thanksgiving and Christmas decorations. Each instructor will share printed directions attendees may take home.

For more information, go to <http://henderson-co-tx-mg.org> or contact Henderson County Master Gardener Judy Haldeman at henderson-cmga@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT DATES:

**November 8th - Major Show Heifer Validation - TVCC Ranch - 7:00 a.m. -
11:00 a.m.**

*Rick Hirsch is the Henderson County Extension Agent - Agriculture for the Texas
A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit our web page at <http://henderson.agrilife.org/>.*