Though there are many species of millipede, our most common local variety is known as *Oxidus garcilis*, or the greenhouse millipede. Though they feed on the roots and organic matter in lawns, these pests do not damage turf. Rather, it’s their imposing migrations that become problematic for homeowners. That’s because despite their namesake, these pests don’t limit themselves to the confines of any greenhouse. Instead, each year, these poly-pedaled pests emerge nightly and begin their annual migration across lawns and through landscaping in order to mate. These determined diplopods also manage to wander their way up foundations, and—in some cases—inside our homes. Such migrations usually occur toward the end of summer or early fall, but occasionally a spring swarm takes place as we’re seeing in some areas this year.

Usually, these migrations are somewhat reasonable, with perhaps only a dozen or so millipedes seen outside on any given day. Other times they can seem to reach epidemic proportions, and the severity of their swarm is directly related to immediate and local environmental conditions.

Though some may wonder why they’re only just now seeing a millipede migration after perhaps living in Florida for many years, a more appropriate question may be: “What environmental conditions are now present that haven’t been present in years past?” In fact, when called upon for millipede problems, our technicians are trained to inspect your home and property to determine which type of environmental conditions may be causing the infestation.

**H2Overkill**

Conditions that contribute to millipede problems include excessive leaf-litter beneath landscaping, standing water (such as that found by AC units), firewood or other objects being stored too closely to the home, and gaps in weather stripping, stucco, or siding which allow easy entry into your home.

But of all causal conditions, by far the most common is an overwatered lawn. This is because millipedes require high moisture for their survival and reproduction. Too much water, however (such as after
March of the Millipedes (continued from page 1)

a heavy rain), will flood millipedes out of the lawn, sending them looking for higher ground, which is often your front doorstep.

So what should you do if you find millipedes in or around your home? Well, although it’s natural to find them outside and even the occasional wanderer inside, an inordinate number (several daily) may be an indication of an underlying problem. It’s at this point that you should check your watering schedule, making sure all irrigation zones are through running just as the sun begins to rise. This allows any excess moisture to evaporate. Also, by removing any excess thatch or leaf litter you’ll limit their food source and also allow these areas to maintain a proper moisture balance.

In some cases where the migrations are unusually heavy, we encourage you to contact us so that we can dispatch one of our technicians to evaluate environmental conditions and apply any appropriate products needed. By working together, you can be sure we’ll keep these persistent pests at bay!

A severe millipede migration can seem like a scene from a horror movie.

Got a Question? We’ve Got an Answer!
Submit your question at deansservices.com/contact

“How Do I Calibrate My Sprinkler System?”
Joe Tomasiello; General Manager; CPCO

Calibrating your sprinkler system simply means finding out how much water is being applied in each zone in a given amount of time. We’re going to test for 30 minutes.

1. Place 5-10 empty tuna cans randomly throughout one zone.
   • Any containers with vertical sides and flat bottoms will work (just make sure they’re all the same size)
2. Run the zone for 30 minutes.
3. Measure and record the depth of water in each container
   • The more accurate the better, but measuring to within 1/8” inch will do.
   • Watch for containers with much less water than the others, as this could indicate clogged or misaligned heads.
4. Total the depths and find the average for that zone
   • Divide the total by the number of cans

Now that you know how many inches of water your system applies in 30 minutes, you can set your timer to run for the appropriate amount of time. For example, if it has only applied 1/2” and you’re shooting for 3/4”, simply run your timer for 45 minutes. Be sure to repeat this process for each zone, setting the time for each as you go.

If you don’t have a regular irrigation maintenance program, you should perform this check annually (as well as any time you make changes to your system). And as always, if you need assistance, Deans is always just a call away!
We’re currently seeking highly motivated service and office personnel to join the Deans Services family. If you’d enjoy working in a customer-service oriented culture, call Deans for more details. Deans Services is a Drug-Free Workplace.

Grow Your Career with Deans!

If you’re not one of our EasyPay participants, remember that if the Total Due on your service invoice is shown as a negative number (for example: -$150), no money is owed. We apologize for any confusion, but having received a few payments in error, we hope this will help clarify matters.

Then again, if you’re not an EasyPay participant...why waste time writing checks, buying stamps, or calling in payments at all? By signing up for EasyPay, you’ll not only get the convenience of having your account updated automatically after each service is performed; you’ll also receive our EasyPay discount!

So save time and money with Deans EasyPay discount program!
Seasonal Reminders

With warmer weather here, we thought it’d be a great time for a few quick reminders about your lawn and irrigation system. As always, if you have any questions, call (352) 787-5300 or visit DeansServices.com!

Adjust Your Watering Frequency
This time each year, local water restrictions are adjusted to allow for more frequent watering. For more details, see our watering schedule included in this issue.

Rely on Your Weather Sensor
A weather sensor is available on most models and is used to detect conditions such as sun intensity, temperature, and rainfall. It then uses this information to adjust your irrigation schedules accordingly and reduce water waste. To prevent waste and pest problems associated with over-watering, simply set your system to water three times a week, and let your sensor automatically reduce watering as needed.

Check Your Irrigation Patterns
For those without our Irrigation Maintenance program, take a moment to run through each of your irrigation zones individually to ensure that no heads are clogged or obstructed by landscaping. Adjust any misaligned spray heads to ensure that all turf is being covered within each zone.

*Recommendations made by Deans are based upon what is required to keep your lawn at an optimal health level and do not consider factors such as local watering restrictions or utility charges. Adherence to such restrictions may affect turf appearance.

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Recommended Watering Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Run-Time (PGP)</th>
<th>Run-Time (MP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above 85°</td>
<td>2 or 3 times/week</td>
<td>3/4 inch</td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>80 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76-85°</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>70 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-75°</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>1/2 inch</td>
<td>30 mins</td>
<td>70 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 46°</td>
<td>Do Not Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Rotors and spray-head output may vary, affecting required run-times. Suggestions are approximate.
- Ornamentals require approximately 20 minutes, twice per week.
- New landscaping requires daily watering for the first 30 days following installation.
- Local watering restrictions may apply.

For additional information, call (352) 787-5300 or 1-877-588-4948
Visit us online at www.DeansServices.com