

OCCASIONAL INVADER

IDENTIFICATION CHART

KC METRO

09/10

2026 EDITION

Most wander in with the weather. Seal, sweep, fix the moisture.

FALL INVASION

September - November

Boxelder bugs, stink bugs and lady beetles gather on warm south & west walls, then slip in through gaps.

J F M A M J J A S O N D

MOISTURE INVADERS

After rain & in drought

Millipedes, pillbugs, centipedes and springtails follow moisture — after a wet week or during a dry spell.

THEY DON'T BREED INSIDE

Exclusion beats spraying

Seal, sweep and screen. Most occasional invaders die indoors within days.

FIX THE SOURCE

Mulch, gutters, grading

Pull mulch 12" off the foundation, fix downspouts and grading, seal utility penetrations.



BOXELDER BUG

Boisea trivittata · 1/2"

FALL INVADER

- Black with red-orange lines; clusters on sunny walls in fall
- Stains fabric when crushed; harmless

Where: Boxelder & maple trees, sunny walls



BROWN MARMORATED STINK BUG

Halyomorpha halys · 5/8"

FALL INVADER

- Shield-shaped, mottled brown, banded antennae
- Stinks when crushed; buzzes around lights in spring

Where: Attics, curtains, lights — fall & spring



ASIAN LADY BEETLE

Harmonia axyridis · 1/4"

FALL INVADER

- Orange with variable spots and a black "M" behind the head
- Can nip and leaves yellow stains; gathers by the hundreds

Where: Window frames, attics, light walls (Oct)



HOUSE CENTIPEDE

Scutigera coleoptrata · 1-1 1/2" **MOISTURE FLAG**

- 15 pairs of long legs; lightning fast
- Hunts roaches & silverfish; a sign of moisture

Where: Basements, bathrooms, drains, crawl spaces



MILLIPEDE

Diplopoda · 1-1 1/2"

MOISTURE INVADER

- Hard, round, many legs; curls into a coil
- Migrates by the hundreds after heavy rain

Where: Mulch, leaf litter, garage & basement floors



PILLBUG & SOWBUG

Armadillidium · Porcellio ...

MOISTURE INVADER

- Gray, segmented; pillbugs roll into a ball
- Need damp conditions; die quickly indoors

Where: Mulch, under stones & pots, damp basements



SPRINGTAILS

Collembola · 1/16"

MOISTURE FLAG

- Tiny jumping specks in sinks, tubs, potted plants
- Thousands mean a wet source: leak, overwatering, new construction

Where: Wet soil, drains, sills, damp walls



EARWIG

Forficula auricularia · 5/8"

MOISTURE INVADER

- Brown with rear pincers; harmless to people
- Hides in damp, tight spots by day; active at night

Where: Mulch, under mats, newspapers, cut flowers



CAMEL & FIELD CRICKETS

Ceuthophilus · *Gryllus* · 3/4-1 1/4"

NUISANCE

- Camel crickets: humpbacked, silent, jump toward you
- Field crickets chirp at night; chew fabric if numerous

Where: Crawl spaces, basements, window wells



SILVERFISH

Lepisma saccharinum · 1/2"

PAPER & FABRIC

- Silvery, teardrop-shaped, three tail bristles; wiggles like a fish
- Feeds on paper, glue, starch, fabric

Where: Bathrooms, attics, bookshelves, boxes



CLOVER MITE

Bryobia praetiosa · 1/32"

SPRING & FALL

- Tiny red dots on sunny windows; smear red when crushed
- Come from lawn growing against the foundation

Where: Sunny windows, south & west siding



NOT SURE WHAT IT IS?

Snap a clear photo, note where you saw it, and text it to us. A licensed pro identifies it — free.

(913) 738-STAR
CALL OR TEXT · 7827

! WHERE THEY GET IN — WHAT WE CHECK



DOORS & WINDOWS

Gaps under doors, torn screens, unsealed frames.



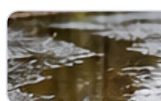
FOUNDATION & MULCH

Mulch, leaf litter and stone piled against the house.



MOISTURE

Damp basements, crawl spaces, laundry and bath areas.



WEATHER SWINGS

Heavy rain, drought, and the first cold snap trigger moves.



SUNNY WALLS

South & west siding where fall invaders gather.

✓ EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Door sweeps, weatherstripping and screen repairs
- ✓ Seal gaps at utility lines, hose bibs, AC lines and vents
- ✓ Pull mulch and leaf litter 12" back from the foundation
- ✓ Fix gutters, downspouts and grading — dry the perimeter
- ✓ Switch exterior bulbs to warm/yellow; vacuum invaders, don't crush

KC FIELD NOTE Fall invaders don't damage the house — the treat-and-seal window is September into October, before they move in. In spring they wake up on the first warm days and head for the windows; a vacuum is the cleanup tool, not a spray can.



SCAN TO TEXT
US A PEST
PHOTO

Free ID from a
licensed pro

CALL OR TEXT · GUARANTEED SERVICE. GUARANTEED RESULTS.

(913) 738-STAR · 7827

ALLSTARPESTKC.COM | INFO@ALLSTARPESTKC.COM

LOCALLY OWNED ★ 30+ YEARS

Joe Cusic, Owner & Licensed Applicator
MO Lic. C29778 · KS Lic. 309053

SERVING THE KANSAS CITY METRO