

Invertebrate Knowledge Card

Slaters

Pill bug (*Armadillidium vulgare*)

Common rough woodlouse (*Porcellio scaber*)

sporadic pests

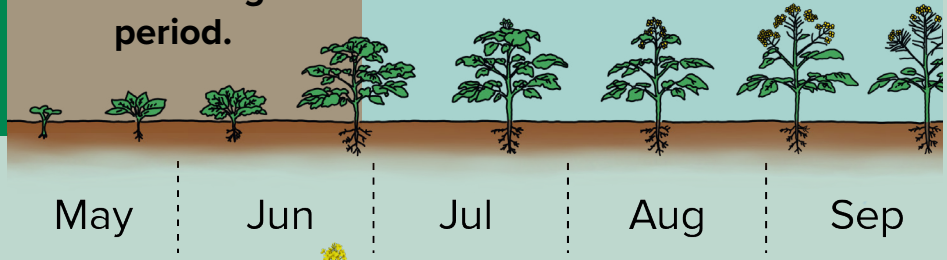


- The pill bug and common rough woodlouse are introduced European species.
- They primarily feed on decaying organic matter and play a beneficial role in nutrient cycling.
- They can feed on living plants and occasionally become an economic pest when in high densities.
- The pill bug can be identified by a defensive behaviour of rolling into a ball.
- Stubble retention has made broadacre production areas more suitable for these arthropods by creating attractive moist, cool habitats.
- A third slater species, the flood bug (*Australiodillo bifrons* - not shown), is a native species that is also known to be an occasional minor pest in cereal crops during establishment.



This research initiative is a GRDC investment that seeks to deliver new knowledge to improve the timing of pest management decisions in grain crops to grain growers: CSE00059. This project is being undertaken by the CSIRO in partnership with cesar, NSW DPI, SARDI, the University of Melbourne, and WA DPIRD. This card was developed by cesar, with support from project partners. Graphics: Elia Pirtle & Jessica Lye. Technical input from Dr Paul Umina & Dr Maarten van Helden. Pill bug image - 'Armadillidium vulgare', Mick Talbot, Flickr.com, 2012 [adapted]. Common rough woodlouse image - 'Rough woodlouse', hederabaltica, Flickr, 2019 [adapted]. (Flickr) used under CC licence creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode

May to June is the key monitoring period.



CROP HOSTS

Canola
Legumes
Cereals

Slaters are widespread throughout Australia. The pill bug and common woodlouse prefer temperate regions.

Visual inspection

- Inspect paddocks with a torch at night.
- During the day look under rocks, stubble residue, wood or dig up soil with a spade.

