



## Prince Edward County Master Gardeners



### EARWIGS

If you notice a rapidly moving insect that is light brown to black with what appears to be pinchers at the tail end of its body, you are looking at an earwig. Earwigs are mostly nocturnal and often hide in small, moist crevices during the day, and are active at night, feeding on a wide variety of insects and plants. Earwigs are a nuisance but they can also be beneficial in the garden: they eat aphids, other small insects and insect eggs.

The best way to control earwigs is to trap them at night. Rolled up newspaper, a short piece of hose or a small tin (like a cat food or salmon tin) with a small amount of oil in the bottom put out in the evening all make excellent earwig traps and will draw earwigs and they can be shaken out into a bucket of water in the morning.

Sink the can into the ground so the rim is at soil level. If you have trouble with dogs, cats or raccoons disturbing your traps, you can also use small plastic margarine tubs with lids. Just punch holes along the top of the tub, add a bit of oil and some bacon fat, put the plastic lid on and place the tub near the damaged plants with the holes exposed.



Submitted by Ren Duinker

For more gardening advice contact us at: [pecmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:pecmastergardeners@gmail.com)

Or visit our website at: <https://pecmastergardeners.com/>