

Pest Bio

Providing All Your Pest Facts

Springtail



Springtail Facts:

Size: 1/16"

Shape: Oval

Color: Appear Grey to the Human Eye

Legs: 6

Wings: No

Antenna: Yes

Scientific Name:

Kingdom:

-Animalia

Pylum:

-Arthropoda

Class:

-Insecta

Order:

-Collembola

Family:

-Entomobryidae

Genus:

-Lepidocyrtus

Given the nickname Snow Fleas, spring tails are not fleas at all, they are actually most closely related to crustaceans!

Tucked up under the Springtails abdomen is the furcula, when the springtail is scared they force fluid into the base of the furcula causing it to hit the surface below propelling the springtail into the air allowing for rapid evasion. Springtails do not pose any threats to people and are not destructive. They do not cause damage to homes or plants. They are however an annoyance, they invade in large numbers and are difficult to control. There are multiple species of springtails in Idaho, Most common are the Damp Grain Springtail you see in the summer and the "Snow Fleas" seen at the base of trees in the winter.

Call Barrier for help managing Springtails

208-463-4533

DIET

Springtails commonly consume fungal hyphae and spores. But have also been found to eat decaying plant matter and pollen, animal remains, colloidal materials and minerals and bacteria.

HABITAT

Springtails are frequently found in leaf litter and other decaying material.

BEHAVIOR

Springtails will hurtle themselves away from danger or when scared. Some Springtails have elaborate courtship behavior, males will dance and butt heads with females.