



## WEEVILS

### Host Plant and Description

Weevils are plant-eating beetles. They can be distinguished from other beetles by their prolonged heads and large beaks with chewing mouthparts at the tip. Adults range in size from 3/16" to 3/8" long, and larvae are white or whitish grubs. Depending on the type of weevil and its life stage, feeding may occur on leaves, bark, roots and twigs. Susceptible plants include, but are not limited to, rhododendron, yew, hemlock, euonymus, pine, spruce, rose, privet, spirea, clematis, strawberry, hollyhock and coreopsis.

### Plant Damage / Symptoms

Some weevils, such as the black vine weevil and the strawberry root weevil, damage plant roots in their larval stages. Adults eat holes or notches in leaves and in flower petals. Insects feed at night and hide beneath plant debris during the day. Frequently, these insects are not detected until root damage is severe enough that the plant begins to wilt.

Other weevils, such as the white pine weevil, cause serious damage to trees by attacking and killing the lead shoot, resulting in deformed growth that has a "staghorn" effect.

The larvae of other weevils, such as poplar and willow weevils, are borers, tunneling through the branches and causing girdling and swelling. Adults feed on tree shoots in summer and deposit eggs in the bark.

Hollyhock weevil is very common on hollyhocks. The larvae of these weevils feed and pupate in the seedpods and emerge through pin-sized holes to feed as adults on foliage.

### Controls

Prevent serious root damage by inspecting susceptible plants regularly for leaf notching produced by the adult weevils. Look for black vine weevil damage on new plant growth as Bridal Wreath Spirea finishes blooming. Spray foliage thoroughly with acephate to kill adults and prevent future egg laying. Treat a second time as *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Grandiflora' is blooming.

To control white pine weevils, prune out branches below the level where grubs are feeding. Spray acephate on the terminal growth as a preventative treatment.

Poplar and willow borers are best controlled with trunk sprays of a residual type insecticide in August.

Control hollyhock weevil by removing and destroying infested pods.