

Pest Bulletin

May 2011



Clay-coloured Weevil
(scan the QR Code for a picture on your smartphone).



Controls

In raspberries, Malathion 85E is registered for use post-bloom, but Admire applied for other pests will also have an effect. In blueberries, Actara 25WG was registered last year. For strawberries, Furadan 480F was the main weapon against weevils but it is no longer available. Ripcord 400EC and Matador 120EC are registered in strawberries for weevils. In cranberries, harvest flooding controls weevils so they are only a problem in dry-harvested fields. Other controls in cranberries include a nematode biological control, and chemicals applied to control blackheaded fireworm will also control adult root weevils.



Black Vine Weevil
(scan the QR Code for a picture on your smartphone).

Root Weevils in Berries



Root weevils, a common pest in berries, cause major economic problems from both damage and contamination in shipped fruit.

The two main species of concern are the black vine weevil (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*) and the clay coloured weevil (*Otiorhynchus singularis*). Adult weevils are about 6-10 mm long, brown to black, appear to have turned-down snouts and "elbow-jointed" antennae. The adults cause unique notching along leaf edges, chew buds right off, and also chew most of the way through leaf stems, leaving them dangling. The larvae also cause damage, burrowing into strawberry crowns, and "tracking" along root surfaces.

Life Cycle and Biology

Both larvae and adults overwinter. Pupation occurs a few inches below the soil surface and adults emerge from the pupae in early to late spring depending on the species. The flightless adult weevils like to forage at night so the best time to find them is in the dark with a flashlight. Or, smack the trellis wire with a stick, catching weevils and anything else that falls from the foliage on a light-coloured sheet of plywood or plastic. Adults lay hundreds of eggs once a year in the soil by mid-July, which hatch in a couple of weeks. Larvae are white or slightly pink, legless and typically curved into a "C" shape.



Adult weevils chew small, half-circle notches in the margins of leaves of host plants (see above).

References:

- BCMAL Berry Production Guide for Commercial Growers, 2009-2010.
- <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ipm/manual/rasp/weevil.html>
- DeAngelis, J. D., Garth, Gary. *Root Weevils in the Nursery and Landscape: Identification and Control*, OSU Extension Service, January 1997.
- <http://www.crd.bc.ca/gardening/rootweevils.htm>