

Black Vine Weevil

Description: Black vine weevils are oval and about 1/2 inch long. They are slate gray to black and have a short snout with elbowed antennae. The weevils have wings that are covered with many small pits and patches of short hairs, but they cannot fly. Larvae are C-shaped, legless grubs that are white with a brown head.

Damage: Black vine weevils are pests of over 100 landscape plants. The grubs cause the most severe damage by feeding on the roots and underground stems. Adults eat notches out of leaf margins, but their feeding rarely impact the health of the plant. Symptoms of black vine weevils include stunting and yellowing. Root injury may stunt new growth and even result in death.

Management: Pit fall traps or beating sheets can be used to monitor the activity of adult weevils. Nocturnal adults begin feeding at dusk. Hand remove adults on single plants or in small plantings. Application of an insecticide before eggs are laid may be effective. Insect parasitic nematodes may control larvae if temperatures are warm enough and there is adequate soil moisture.



Grubs cause damage by feeding on roots and underground stems (left).

Black vine weevil adults have elbowed antennae (right).

