

## Strawberry Root Weevil

**Description:** Adult strawberry root weevils are about  $\frac{1}{5}$  inch long, light brown to black, with many rows of small pits or punctures along their back. They have a long snout, and cannot fly. Tiny, pearly white eggs are laid in the soil around the base of plants throughout the summer. Larvae are white, C-shaped, legless, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long.

**Damage:** Larvae tunnel in the roots and crowns as they feed on strawberry, lilac, mock orange, and other ornamental plants, causing stunting and darkening of plants. The leaves of injured plants are closely bunched, dark, and blue-green. This serious damage may weaken the plant so much that it dies. Adults eat small, irregular notches from the edges of leaves, but do not otherwise seriously damage woody shrubs.

**Management:** To prevent insects from establishing in adjacent areas, plow under or till old strawberry beds immediately. Plant unsuitable hosts, such as corn, pumpkins, and perennial flowers, for at least two years. Fall plow infested planting beds, and move new plantings away from infested sites. Treat the surface soils with chemicals when adults begin to emerge. Soil drenches may reduce larval numbers.



Adult strawberry root weevils have small pits along their backs (above).

Adults eat small notches from the edges of leaves. Characteristic black spots, fecal matter, is left on leaves (below).

