

Root Weevils



Rough strawberry root weevil (Ken Gray Collection)



Black vine weevil (Ken Gray Collection)



Strawberry root weevil (Ken Gray Collection)

Typical Location When Observed: Root weevils (black vine weevil, lilac root weevil, rough strawberry root weevil, and strawberry root weevil) are occasional nuisance invaders of homes.

Importance/Damage: In addition to being a nuisance in the home, these weevils may damage the leaves and roots of a variety of ornamental plants.

Distinguishing Features: Root weevils are small (1/4 to 1/2 inch, depending on the species). The smaller species are a shiny brownish black, while the larger black vine weevil (center photo) has patches of yellow hairs on the wing covers.

Look-Alikes: Many different weevil species


General Life History and Habits: Root weevils generally overwinter as nearly full-grown larvae on the roots of strawberry, raspberry, clover, spruce, Douglas-fir and many woody shrubs. Some black vine weevils may over-winter as adults. Most adults emerge sometime in June. Adults climb plants to feed at night and hide around the soil surface during the day. Eggs are laid near the crowns of plants throughout the summer. Root weevil feeding by adults produces characteristic notches along leaf margins on such plants as euonymous, peonies and lilac.

Resources: More information may be found in Extension Fact Sheet 5.551, *Root Weevils*.

Scientific Name: *Otiorhynchus* species

Order: Coleoptera (beetles)

Family: Curculionidae (weevils)

Actual Length


Version: July 31, 2009