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Common Insects & Mites : Root weevils

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Several species of root weevils can be serious pests of landscape plants including azalea, rhododendron, rose, and strawberry. The black vine weevil is perhaps the most common. Adult weevils create characteristic notchings along leaf margins of countless plant species. The weevil larvae also can be serious pests, particularly in nursery plants. The larvae feed on roots and in some cases girdle crowns and lower stems.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Apply beneficial nematodes which kill the larvae. They are used as a soil drench in moist soils over 52 degrees F (mid-fall in western Washington).
- ~ Plant resistant varieties when available. Your county extension agent or WSU Master Gardeners can furnish a list.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Adult control should begin when adults emerge late May-June or when first signs of notching appear on new leaves. A follow-up spray may be necessary about a month later. Beneficial nematodes can be applied to control the larval stage if soil temperatures are warmer than 52 degrees F.

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Images



~ Caption: *Black vine weevil adult and leaf damage*
~ Photo by: *A.L. Antonelli*



~ Caption: *Root weevil damage on peony*
~ Photo by: *E.H. Beers*



~ Caption: *Root weevil larval damage*
~ Photo by: *A.L. Antonelli*



*~ Caption: Adult root weevil damage
~ Photo by: E.P. Breakey*



*~ Caption: Root weevil larvae
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli*



*~ Caption: Root weevil damage on strawberry
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli*



*~ Caption: Root weevil damage on rhododendron
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli*