

## Plum curculio

### What is Plum curculio?

Plum curculio (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*) is an economically damaging pest that is regarded as the most serious pest of stone fruit after codling moth in eastern North America.

### What does it look like?

Adult weevils are about 5 mm long and brown/grey in colour with four pairs of ridges on the forewings (elytra). The weevils' snouts are small, rough and speckled black, grey and brown. Larvae are curved, legless and 6-9 mm long and are typically white with brown heads. The minute eggs (0.4 x 0.6 mm) are elliptical and white, but aren't visible externally as they are laid in the fruit.

### What can it be confused with?

The appearance of the Plum curculio is similar to the Apple weevil (*Anthonomus quadrigibbus*) and *A. pomorum*, both of which are exotic to Australia. Therefore, the detection of any weevil laying eggs in fruit should be reported.

### What should I look for?

Adult weevils cause scarring and oviposition wounds on the fruit, but damage is highly variable. Larval feeding causes internal damage, so the most recognisable symptom of Plum curculio is rotted fruit on trees with possible fruit drop.

### How does it spread?

Larvae can be spread in infested fruit, though a more likely means of spread is through contamination of packing material by adult weevils.



Larvae are white with a brown head

Clemson University – USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org



Adult weevils are brown/grey

Natasha Wright, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org



The weevil's snout is small, rough and speckled

Jerry A. Payne, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org



### Where is it now?

Plum curculio is currently restricted to North America.

### How can I protect my farm from Plum curculio?

Source plant material only from 'clean', accredited suppliers. Check your farm frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common summerfruit insect pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**If you see anything unusual, call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline**

**EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE  
1800 084 881**



Ridges are prominent on the weevil's forewings

E. Levine, Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



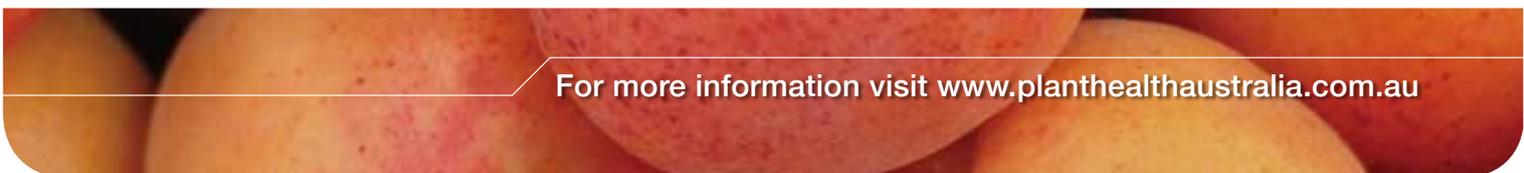
Larvae cause internal fruit rotting

P.J. Chapman, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Bugwood.org



The weevil causes scarring and rotting of fruit

Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org



For more information visit [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au)