

# Mango pulp weevil

## What is mango pulp weevil?

Mango pulp weevil (*Sternuchus frigidus*) is a serious exotic pest that has the potential to cause high economic losses to the mango industry. Its close relative, the mango seed weevil (*S. mangiferae*), is already present in Eastern Australia.

## What does it look like?

Mango pulp weevil larvae are white, legless grubs with a brown to black head. Immature larvae can be up to 1.5 mm in length with mature larvae up to 17 mm long. Pupae are white to pale red and can be 10 mm long. Pupae stay in a chamber hollowed out in the flesh adjacent to the seed as they develop into adults. Eggs are white or pale yellow, elliptical and around 0.6 mm.

Adult weevils are small (6–9 mm) and stout and are dark brown in colour with paler patches. The head is small and the body covered with papillate scales. Adults stay in the chamber until mature and then emerge from the fruit by boring a hole through the skin.

## What can it be confused with?

Mango pulp weevil larvae, pupae and adults look very similar to those forms of the mango seed weevil. Whilst adults can be distinguished as separate species by entomologists, the most obvious difference in the orchard is that mango pulp weevils destroy the pulp whereas the mango seed weevil primarily infests the seed.

## What should I look for?

Eggs are laid in young fruit of at least 6 cm diameter and adult puncture wounds (small brown sites) may be seen on the fruit. Larvae tunnel into the fruit, feeding on the pulp, leaving brown, granular faeces behind, but showing no outward sign of infestation. Only when adults emerge are obvious symptoms visible, with circular emergence holes appearing in the skin of the fruit. Fruit drop may also occur.

To check for infestation, the fruit must be sliced open.



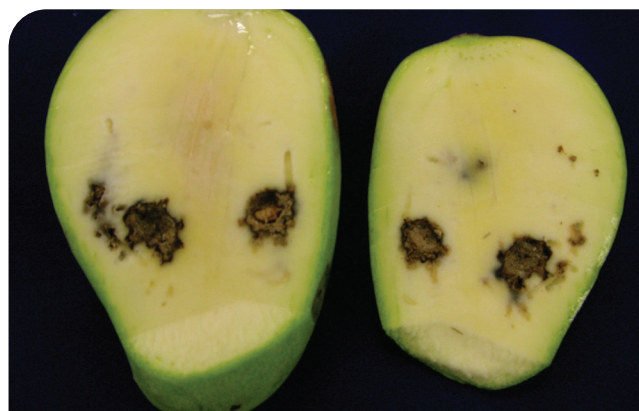
Adult weevils are dark brown with paler patches

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Larvae tunnel into the fruit and feed on the pulp

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Green mangos are also susceptible to infestation

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Prior to emergence of adults, damage can only be seen by opening the fruit

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Unlike seed weevils, mango pulp weevils only feed on the flesh of the fruit

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## How does it spread?

Adults are capable of flight but do not disperse long distances by this method. Long range dispersal of the weevil occurs primarily through the transport of infested fruit containing adults (which generally survive in fruit).

## Where is it now?

Mango pulp weevil is widely distributed throughout Asia and is also present in Papua New Guinea.

## How can I protect my orchard from mango pulp weevil?

Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common mango pests so you can tell if you see something different.

**IF YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL,  
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE**

**☎ 1800 084 881**



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