

Plum curculio

What is plum curculio?

Plum curculio (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*) is an economically damaging weevil that is regarded as the most serious pest of pome and 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 snouts are small, rough and speckled black, gray, 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 two other weevil pests that are also not present in Australia, the apple weevil (*Anthonomus quadrigibbus*) and apple blossom weevil (*A. pomorum*). Therefore, the detection of any weevil matching this description 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 rotten cherry fruit on the trees with possible fruit drop.

How does it spread?

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

Where is it now?

Plum curculio is currently restricted to North America.



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



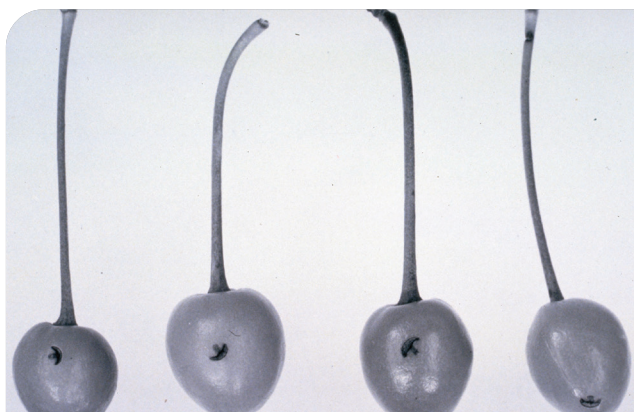
Ridges are prominent on the weevil's forewings

E. Levine, Ohio State University, Bugwood.org



Larvae cause internal fruit rotting

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



Oviposition scars on young fruit

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

How can I protect my orchard from plum curculio?

Source planting material and orchard inputs only from 'clean', accredited suppliers. Check your orchard frequently for the presence of new pests and unusual symptoms. Make sure you are familiar with common cherry 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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