

Black Vine Weevil

An Insect That Causes Damage To Leaves and Roots

Black Vine Weevil is a beetle that attacks evergreen yew, arborvitae and rhododendron. While the adult weevils feed on foliage, often resulting in an unsightly appearance, more serious damage is done by larvae. The larvae feed on the roots and may girdle the main stem, often killing the plant.

Infested Trees And Shrubs Require Treatment For Control

Yews, rhododendrons, and arborvitae are most susceptible to the Black Vine Weevil for control. Control measures can be timed to coincide with early larval feeding before damage is apparent.

What To Look For

- Notches on leaves and flowers.
- Sudden wilting, decline or dieback of plants.
- Roots damaged by larval feeding.

Life Cycle

- Larvae develop through the winter.
- Adults emerge in early summer.
- After feeding for 2-3 weeks, adults begin to lay eggs on the ground.
- Adults feed through the summer.
- Larvae feed until they overwinter (adults may also overwinter).
- All weevils are females (no males exist). One generation per year.

Treatment and Prevention

- Expose eggs to desiccation and predation:
 - Reduce soil moisture.
 - Remove organic matter from base of plants.
 - Remove plastic liner under mulch.
- A soil-applied application is required in either the spring or fall to control larvae.



Adult black vine weevil.



Adult leaf damage.

Photo Courtesy of: The Morton Arboretum



Larva and damaged roots.

Photo Courtesy of: Ohio State University Extension

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