

Cabbage Seed Pod Weevil

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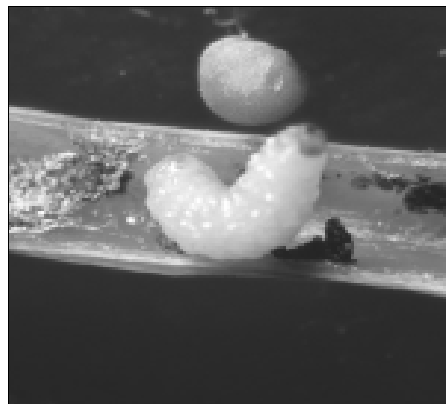
Adult cabbage seed pod weevils can feed on developing canola buds causing bud blasting. They also deposit eggs into small developing pods.

Description

- Adult cabbage seed pod weevils are typically 1/10 to 1/6” (3-4 mm) long with an oval, ash gray to black body and a strongly curved snout.
- Larvae are white and grub-like without legs or eyes and are about 1/12” (2 mm) long.
- Adults feed on flower buds causing bud blasting while larvae eat developing seeds, causing yield loss. Pods are susceptible to disease and shattering.

Life Cycle

- One generation per year.
- Adults over-winter under litter and in light soils becoming active in spring, flying at temperatures about 15°C and feed on early crucifer crops or weeds in spring before laying eggs.



The larvae that hatch from these eggs can consume about 5 canola seeds before chewing an exit hole and dropping to the ground to pupate.

- Each female lays 60 to 70 eggs that hatch within five to 30 days, depending on temperature. The larvae spend three to four weeks in the pod, each consuming five to seven canola seeds.
- Population and activity of adult weevils peak at full bloom and continues into the early pod-set period.
- When feeding is completed, the larva chews a round exit hole at the base of the pod and drops to the ground to pupate. New adults emerge within two to

four weeks and feed on green stem and pod material but do little damage.



Action Required

- Monitor field using a sweep net; start sampling at early bud stage.
- If control is required, the best time to spray is when crops are in 10 to 20% flower to avoid egg laying in newly formed pods.
- Consider a foliar insecticide application when numbers reach 30 to 40 weevils per 10 sweeps.
- The insecticide Mattador is licensed for the control of cabbage seed pod weevil.