



*Small Fruit*

# Strawberry Weevil

Pest Fact Sheet **7**

## Introduction

The Strawberry Weevil is known as the "Strawberry Clipper". It is a native of North America occurring from Texas to New England. When abundant, the weevil will sever stems, causing a great amount of damage to the fruit buds. In some areas, 50% -75% of the crop can be destroyed by the Strawberry Weevil. Don't confuse strawberry weevil with the strawberry *root* weevil, a different species.



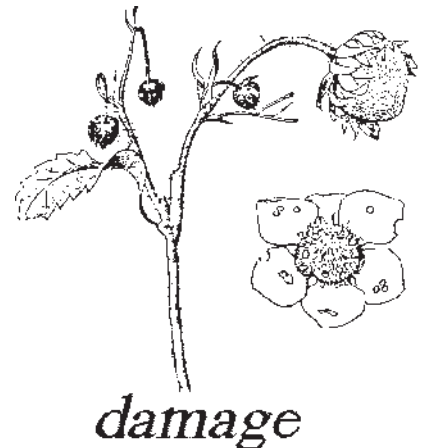
## Description

The adult is a brown to pitchy-black snout beetle less than 1/10" long with large dark spots on the wing covers. The larvae of the Strawberry Weevil are glassy white legless grubs and are usually found feeding within clipped strawberry, raspberry or blackberry buds.

## Life Cycle

The adult Strawberry Weevil overwinters in mulch and leaf trash in and around the strawberry, blackberry or raspberry beds, becoming active about the time of bloom, when it begins feeding on the buds and foliage.

The female will deposit her eggs in holes she has made with her snout about midway between the center of the bud and the tip of the bud. She then will cut off the stem of the bud about 1/4" below the bud. One female will lay 20-30 eggs. The eggs will hatch in 6-14 days, depending upon the weather conditions. The larva will feed in the severed bud and within 29 days will have attained full growth and will have fed upon the entire bud. Once full grown, it will pupate and emerge as an adult (approximately mid-summer). The adults will feed for a short time, find overwintering quarters and emerge again the next spring.



## Control

Clipper is not a problem in every field every year, but tends to be sporadic. Growers who wish to reduce pesticide use can monitor frequently during the pre-bloom period for signs of the insect, and eliminate a spray if few or none are present. Consult your county Extension Educator (see county office telephone listing on next page) for specific pesticide recommendations.

**Stop!** It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. If unsure of registration status of a particular pesticide product, contact the NH Division of Pesticide Control at (603) 271-3550. Store pesticides in their original containers in a locked cabinet or shed away from food. Dispose of unused pesticides or empty containers safely, according to NH regulations. If you suspect pesticide poisoning, call the New Hampshire Poison Control Center at 1-800-562-8236.

### UNH Cooperative Extension County Office Telephone Numbers

**Belknap**

(603) 527-5475

**Carroll**

(603) 539-3331

**Cheshire**

(603) 352-4550

**Coos**

(603) 788-4961

**Grafton**

(603) 787-6944

**Hillsborough**

Goffstown  
(603) 641-6060

**Merrimack**

(603) 796-2151

**Rockingham**

Brentwood, NH 03833  
(603) 679-5616

**Strafford**

(603) 749-4445

**Sullivan**

(603) 863-9200



**Alan T. Eaton**

**Extension Specialist, Entomology**

**Visit our website: [ceinfo.unh.edu](http://ceinfo.unh.edu)**

*UNH Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer.*

*UNH, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and NH counties cooperating.*