



Christmas Tree & Nursery

White Pine Weevil

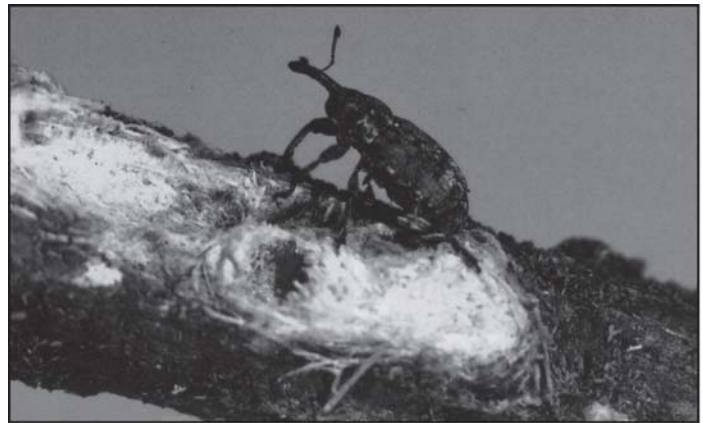
Pest
Fact
Sheet **14**

Introduction

The white pine weevil is one of the most destructive insect pests of eastern white pine in North America. Norway spruce, jack pine, scotch pine, pitch pine, red pine, blue spruce, and white spruce are also susceptible to white pine weevil damage. Damage from this weevil results in reduction of lumber yield and poor quality ornamentals for nursery and Christmas trees.

Description

Larvae of the white pine weevil are long, yellowish-white and legless.



White Pine Weevil with Chip Cocoon

The adult is a snout beetle about 4-6 mm in length. The wing covers (elytra) are marked with brown and white scales with a white patch of scales at the tip of the wing covers.

The resting stage is a creamy-white pupa and is the same length as the adult (4-6mm).

Life cycle

Adult white pine weevils overwinter in litter on the ground. From April to May, they emerge and begin to feed on the terminal growth. They favor feeding on the bark 7-10" below the dormant terminal buds.

Females deposit eggs in the bark of the terminal, which hatch in 7-10 days.

The developing larva feeds in the leader until maturity in July. Pupation occurs in larval chambers made of wood chips. Adults emerge in 10-15 days and continues to feed on old and new growth. The white pine weevil often kills 2-3 years of terminal growth.

Control

At the first sign of wilting and drooping of terminals, check for excessive pitch flow from feeding and oviposition wounds. This usually occurs in late spring. If excessive pitch is found, cut open the area of pitch exit and look for the larvae. If found, remove the entire leader. Cut back all but one side shoot to maintain single-stem dominance.

White Pine Weevil can be controlled chemically by 1-2 applications of an insecticide when adults emerge—from mid-April to early May. Spray applications should be two weeks apart. Consult your county Extension Educator (see county office telephone listing below) for specific pesticide recommendations.

Summary

Damaging stage	Adult and larvae
Part of plant attacked	Terminal leader
Overwintering stage	Adult
Number of generations per year	1
Time of year when damage is done	April - June (adult & larvae)
Number of pesticide applications per year	1 - 2
Best time to spray	Mid-April

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

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.



Stanley R. Swier
Extension Specialist, Entomology

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