

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jack Kelly Clark, University of California UC Davis
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/L/I-CO-LCAL-LV.006.html>

Common Name: Wireworm

Scientific Name: *Conoderus vespertinus*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Elateridae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	6-24 mm		12-31 mm	
Appearance	-Grey to brown beetle; may have patterns on wing covers. -Distinctive in having a greatly enlarged prothorax which is loosely jointed.	-Laid in shallow soil; some are found in grassy areas. Egg hatch in few day to few weeks. -Pearly white in color.	-Larvae are cylindrical elongate, hard bodied, and light brown or yellow.	

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing in both adults and larvae.

Host plant/s: Roots and seeds of a wide variety of plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Wireworm larvae injure crops by partially or completely devouring seeds in the soil, thus reducing plant stands. On plants, they can cut off small, underground stems and roots or bore into larger ones. Larvae tunnel into germinating seeds, roots, and other belowground structures. Wireworms are especially destructive to corn, but all the small grains and nearly all cultivated and wild grasses are attacked. Among the crops damaged are soybeans, potatoes, root crops, cabbage, and beans. While soybeans and small grains are attacked by wireworms, because of seeding rates and ability to compensate for stand loss, serious losses are less common than with corn.

References:

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