

Pest Profile



Photo credit: by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska

Common Name: Maize Weevil

Scientific Name: *Sitophilus zeamais*

Order and Family: Coleoptera: Curculionidae

Size and Appearance: The Maize weevil is roughly 3-3.5 mm in length, has dark brown to black coloration, and has several pits arranged in lines along elytra. It is common for the weevil to feature several reddish oval-shaped markings on its thorax as well. The antennae are eight segmented and they are often held in front of the insect. It is similar in appearance to the Granary Weevil but is distinguished by having distinct, useable wings. The larvae are off white, pale, and legless.

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	< 0.05 mm in length	White, round, 20-150 laid inside of kernel of corn by female.
Larva/Nymph	0.5-4 mm in length depending on instar	1-4 mm long, c-shaped, no legs, pale
Adult	3-3.5 mm in length	Reddish-brown, pits on thorax and elytra, spots on thorax, eight segmented antennae
Pupa (if applicable)	4-6 mm long	Pupal cased formed from the last larval skin and takes place within the kernel.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing

Host /stored food products: *Stiophilus zeamais* consume and reproduce in primarily corn. They will also feed on cassava, yam, other root vegetables, sorghum, and wheat.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The species bores into grains and stays there through adulthood, making infestations hard to catch early. Reduce weight and economic value of stored product.

References:

Smith, E.H. and Whitman, R.C. (2007). Stored Product Pests- Maize Weevil. In *NPMA Field Guide of Structural Pests*. (9.26.1). National Pest Management Association International.

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