

Pest Profile



Photo credit: David Shetlar, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Bluegrass Billbug

Scientific Name: *Sphenophorus parvulus*

Order and Family: Coleoptera; Curculionidae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	¼ to ½ inch		5/8-inch	
Appearance	-Adults are slate gray to black weevils	-Eggs are inserted in the base of the stem of a plant; cream white in color	-Larva is a plump and legless grub with a dark brown head.	

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

Host plant/s: Kentucky bluegrass and sometimes fescue and perennial ryegrass

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Young larvae develop in the crown of the grasses and usually kill the plant. Older larvae then move into the soil beneath the host plant and chew on the roots. Females also chew small holes in the base of the plant stem to lay eggs.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Chapter Ten: Root, Tuber, and Bulb Feeders- Bluegrass Billbug. *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press.