

## Pest Profile



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**Common Name:** Sweetpotato weevil

**Scientific Name:** *Cylas formicarius* Fabricius

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera, Brentidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	0.7 x 0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• oval in shape</li><li>• creamy white</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	0.29 – 0.78 (mean head capsule widths) 2.4 – 6.5 (larvae lengths)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• legless</li><li>• white</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	5.5 – 8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• body, legs, and head are long and thin</li><li>• head is black</li><li>• antennae, thorax, and legs are orange to reddish brown</li><li>• abdomen and elytra are metallic blue</li><li>• snout slightly curved and about as long as the thorax</li><li>• antennae attached at about the mid-point on the snout</li></ul>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	~6.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• white but darkens with time</li><li>• similar to adult appearance, although the head and elytra are bent ventrally</li></ul>

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

**Host plant/s:** Feeds on plants in the family Convolvulaceae. Its primary hosts are in the genus *Ipomoea*. Among vegetable crops only sweet potato is a suitable host.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Sweetpotato weevil is often considered to be the most serious pest of sweet potato. The principal form of damage to sweet potato is mining of the tubers by larvae. The infested tuber is often riddled with cavities, spongy in appearance, and dark in color. In addition, larvae cause damage indirectly by facilitating entry of soil-borne pathogens. Even low levels of feeding induce a chemical reaction that imparts a bitter taste and terpene odor to the tubers. Larvae also mine the vine of the plant, causing it to darken, crack, or collapse. The adult may feed on the tubers, creating numerous small holes that measure about the length of its head. The adult generally has limited access to the tubers, however; damage by this stage is less severe than by larvae.

**Reference:**

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