



Rice Weevil (Pantry Pest)

Fact Sheet

Latin Name

Sitophilus oryzae

Appearance



Adult rice weevils measure approximately 4 mm in length and are reddish brown in color. Their wings feature faint yellow or red patterns. Deep, irregular pits are found behind the heads of these weevils, and their snouts can grow as long as 1 mm.

Behaviour, Diet & Habits

Although rice weevils are not known to cause direct harm to humans, their destructive feeding habits can lead to grain loss. Contrary to their name, rice weevils feed on a variety of grains, including barley, wheat, corn, oats, rye and sorghum. They may even infest processed cereal goods such as macaroni.

Reproduction

Each female rice weevil is capable of laying four eggs a day and can produce up to 300 eggs in her lifetime. Females perforate kernels or seeds in order to lay single eggs inside. After doing so, the affected grain is sealed with gelatinous secretions. Larvae consume the kernel from the inside out, leaving behind an emptied husk.



In colder temperatures, the development cycle of the rice weevil may span more than 32 days. However, on average, larvae emerge within three days and develop into pupae within 18. Six days afterwards, adults emerge from the husk. Adults may live as long as six months.

Control Measures

Controlling Weevil starts with a careful inspection to identify all the infestation's food sources. Pay particular attention to items that have remained in the cupboard for long periods or foods that are loosely sealed or are in thin wrapping. you need to first go thru your pantry throw out all items past their use by date, open all cereals, nuts, cake mixes, raisins, packages, even if unopened and sort thru. Look for damaged grain best to put everything that is clear back into plastic sealable containers. Get rid of any food that is infested. Use a vacuum to remove spilled food and insects from the empty shelves while paying close attention to the cracks and gaps between shelves and cabinet walls. Cleaning with soap and water is also needed. Any holes should be sealed later. Remember that need the food to change into adults. It is important to check the walls and ceiling in the pantry and the nearby area for crawling adults. They can be in cracks, behind appliances and even behind picture frames on the wall. Exopest can spray top and underside of all shelves which should be emptied prior to service you can then stack things back after it dries without wiping out. We will also apply dust in roof over this area and spot treat around any ceiling areas the moth larvae may have gathered. Put stored food products, in sealed glass or plastic containers to prevent a re-infestation. If pet food or animal feed is stored in the garage or shed, check it too, since this often is a source of the infestation. Keep these products in tightly sealed containers. Also, food may be stored in the refrigerator.