

GOOD BUG

Predatory Ground Beetles (aka Carabid beetles)



Why good? Ground beetles are voracious predators eating insects, slugs, and sometimes weed seeds.

Where? Ground beetles are found in many habitats from forests, farms, to gardens. Most species hide during the day in the soil/plants and scurry around at night.

Identification: Most ground beetles you might encounter will be fast runners, and usually not fly away. They range from small to large (1/8 - 1 ½ inch), from plain black, brown to metallic. Ground beetles have “beans” (circled), where their last pair of legs attach to the body. Turn the beetle over to see.

Enhancement: Practices such as mulching, growing cover crops and non-invasive perennial margins will let ground beetles thrive. Avoid soil applied insecticides.

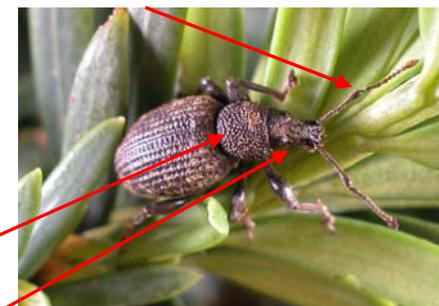


BAD BUG

Black Vine Weevils

The Problem: Zero tolerance for larvae and adults in shipped plant material. Larvae and adults feed on a wide variety of plant material. Difficult to scout.

Elbowed antennae



Thorax

Elongated mouthparts



Monitoring: Check suspect plant foliage after dark for adults. Place beat sheets under plants after dark and shake the plant vigorously or use beating stick. Burlap arranged in folds or grooved boards on the ground can also be placed around the nursery to monitor for adults.

Identification: All weevil adults have elbowed antennae and elongated mouthparts. Black vine weevil adults have a thorax with rounded bumps and golden hairs. No “beans” at the point of hind leg attachment as do the ground beetles. There are six larval stages all ivory colored with tan head capsule. Later instars are characteristically “C” shaped. Larvae present in soil from late-June until pupation and adult emergence the following May.

Control: Monitor carefully for adults in the spring. Night applied insecticides 2-3 weeks after the first adult is observed can be effective. Chemical and microbial products are available for larval control in container-grown stock.



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