

Plum Curculio on peach

Prepared by
Camille Goodwin, MG 2008

Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Galveston County Office
Dickinson, TX 77539



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FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Conotrachelus nenuphar* Herbst)

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: spring

- Migration to fruit trees occurs when temperature reaches 70° Fahrenheit for 2 or more days
- Adult plum curculios feed on the foliage and flowers until small fruits form
- Eggs are laid after shuck-split stage on plums and are deposited in shallow cavities chewed into the fruit surface by the female curculio

Plants Affected

- Peach, plum, apple, cherry, apricot, pear, quince, and wild hosts including wild plum hawthorn and native crabapple

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

- Adults are snout beetles about ¼" long, gray to black with lighter brown mottling
- Their wing covers are roughened and bear two prominent humps and two smaller ones
- Mouthparts are at the end of a curved snout that is about ¼ the size of length of body
- Larvae are slightly curved, white to yellowish-white, legless grubs with brown heads and a light brown shield behind the head and measure about ¾" long (Fig 6)
- Full grown larva tunnel out of the fruit, fall to ground, enter the soil and construct a small earthen cell in which to pupate. Adults emerge four to five weeks later
- Two or three generations can occur in a year

Description / Symptoms

- One of the most important insect pests attacking fruit trees
- Larvae tunnel into developing fruit and render fruit inedible (Fig. 4)
- Adults chew holes in fruit as they feed and/or deposit eggs
- These holes provide entry for the brown rot fungus and produce cat-facing on peaches (similar to that caused by stinkbugs)



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

- Damaged fruit may have crescent-shaped scars, shiny areas or disturbed fuzz, protruding bumps and appear knobby, gnarled and scarred at harvest (Fig. 1-3)
- Most larvae-infested fruits drop to the ground in April or May or result in unusable fruit that matures prematurely and is grub infested (Fig. 4)

Best Management Practices (BMP)

CULTURAL CONTROL

- Clear all fallen leaves and dropped fruit regularly, put in plastic bag, tie off and discard through household garbage
- Close mowing and weed control discourages overwintering

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Effective insecticide control depends on properly timed applications
- Use an all purpose fruit tree spray containing carbaryl (Sevin) or malathion
- Apply insecticides first when petals begin to fall off the newly pollinated fruit.
- Make additional applications at the shuck split stage and then at 2 week intervals to include three more applications



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Use pesticides only according to the directions on the label. Individuals who use chemicals are responsible for ensuring that the intended use complies with current regulations and conforms to the product label. If the information does not agree with current labeling, follow the label instructions. The label is the law.

Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

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Texas AgriLife Extension Service • Galveston County Office • 5115 Highway 3 • Dickinson, TX 77539
281-534-3413 • <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>