

# A Bug's Life

# Rice and maize weevils

Family: Curculionidae

Rice weevil - *Sitophilus oryzae*; Maize weevil - *Sitophilus zeamais*;

## Fun facts

- Larvae and adults are pests of grains
- Larvae develop inside seed kernel
- Rice and maize weevils are indistinguishable without dissection
- Adults attracted to light and are able to fly in from fields

## Products

- Corn, wheat, rice, beans, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, cereals, bird seed, etc.

## Identification

Damage: Destroy commodities by feeding and hollowing out seed and grain kernels

Larvae: Legless, robust, cream-colored with dark head capsules

Adults: 1/10" long, long snout, elbowed antennae, reddish-brown to black with 4 pale spots on wing covers, rows of pits on prothorax and grooves on wing covers

## Management

- Inspect packages before purchase, look for rips in bags and insects
- Sweep up any spills right away
- Locate source of infestation, discard contaminated items in outdoor trash
- Check decorative arrangements with corn or seeds and items stuffed with dry beans (i.e. bean bags, heating pads)
- Store whole grain products (wild bird seed, squirrel corn) in airtight containers



Photos: J. Green