

Technical Guide about pest encountered in KAUST and how it is being controlled.

WEEVILS: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

Facts and Notes

Weevils are a type of beetle. Adult weevils feed on plant foliage during the winter and summer months. However, weevil larvae that feed on plant roots during the winter can be more damaging. They are about a third of an inch long, light grey in color, and have "V"-shaped markings on their wings. Even though they have wings, they cannot fly.

Additionally, the average lifespan is up to two years. Its larvae are approximately the same length as adult weevils, are green in color, and lack appendages. When laid, eggs are white, but prior to hatching, they turn black. This insect feeds on the foliage and roots of a wide variety of horticultural plants. Adults and larvae feed on a wide variety of plant species. They are most active at night as they can be hard to spot during the day.

Types of Weevils Commonly Found in KAUST



Red Palm Weevil



Pinstriped Ground (white) Weevil



Pinstriped Ground (black) Weevil



Black Vine Weevil

Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Check for signs of weevil infestation. Proper monitoring of plants in the early stages of infestation, particularly palms prevent weevil infestations from occurring.
2. IPM-guided essential control such as least-toxic as first option such as;
 - **Cultural Control** - Remove any garden weeds, plant debris, and compostable garbage.
 - **Mechanical Control** - Manually remove the adult insects, larvae and eggs, and place into a container of soapy water to destroy. If an entire plant or row of crops are entirely infested, completely uproot and destroy of the whole plants to prevent the spreading of the insects. Install RPW Traps on the trunk of the palms.
 - **Chemical Control** - If other methods fail, apply approved insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Use Volley supreme 200 SP - Acetamiprid 20% w/v (WHO Class: II, Local Reg.: 366-50-1279).
3. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment, use pheromone traps and keep record for future evaluation.

What you can do to prevent Weevils Insects in your garden

- Maintain good sanitary conditions, remove any garbage and debris from your backyards and gardens.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.