

WEEVILS

APPLE WEEVIL, CURCULIO BEETLE (*Otiorhynchus cribricollis*) in inland NSW, SA & WA
GARDEN WEEVIL (*Phlyctinus callosus*), mainly in WA

Size: 7–9 mm

Biology and damage: Apple weevil is the major weevil pest in olives. Adults are nocturnal and flightless, emerge from the ground in summer and climb trees to chew leaf margins, creating a typical scalloped appearance. Severe infestations can damage growing tips, and reduce yield, especially in young trees. The soil-dwelling legless white-bodied larvae may feed on plant roots, but there are no reports of serious damage to olives.



Apple weevil damage

Apple weevil larva (top) and adult

Apple weevil fibre trap

Management: Check new plantings for leaf and stem feeding. Confirm whether these weevils are the cause by observations at night or by digging around the base of trees during the day. Butt sprays of a permitted insecticide can be used. An effective alternative to insecticide is the use of either a sticky or a fibrous barrier applied to the tree trunk. In the latter case, apple weevils become enmeshed in the fibres. Sticky material such as polybutene will help exclude garden weevil adults but not apple weevil. It is phytotoxic to olive trees and needs to be placed on a substrate such as plastic.

Poultry, including guinea fowl have been reported to contribute to garden weevil control in orchards and vineyards.

**Hort
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For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au