

PLUM CURCULIO

Help stop this insect PEST!

THE CULPRIT:

Plum curculio is an insect native to eastern North America where it is one of the major pests of fruit trees. It feeds on the fruit of cherry, apple, plum, peach, and apricot.



Adults start migrating to fruit trees during bloom to feed and lay eggs. They are rarely seen in daylight.

THE PROBLEM:

The only known occurrence of this insect pest in western North America is in the fruit-growing areas of Box Elder County. Plum curculio is a quarantine pest, and most western states will not allow the import of fresh fruit from Box Elder County into their state.

The primary source of the infestation is unmanaged homeowner fruit trees. If this pest were to spread to other fruit-producing counties of Utah, it could devastate Utah's fruit industry.



Typical symptoms are crescent-shaped egg-laying scars and circular feeding scars.

THE SOLUTION:

All fruit growers in Utah need your help and cooperation in the battle against this important pest problem by taking control measures on backyard or abandoned fruit trees.



Larvae feed within fruit for approximately 16 days before exiting. Fruits infested early in the season will drop prematurely to the ground.

PLUM CURCULIO WILL ATTACK MOST FRUIT TREES

Cherry, plum, apricot, apple, peach, wild plum, and ornamental fruit trees can all be infested by plum curculio. The major infestations are in unmanaged residential fruit trees and abandoned orchards.

THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF OWNING AN INFESTED TREE

Plum curculio is a quarantine pest. Reducing the incidence and spread this pest helps Utah fruit growers. The Utah *Insect Infestation Emergency Control Act* requires that infested trees be removed or treated to control plum curculio.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY TREE IS INFESTED?

1. *On young fruits*: look for a crescent-shaped slit in the fruit, caused by egg-laying.
2. *On maturing fruits*: look for adult feeding scars; holes in fruit.
3. *On prematurely dropped fruit*: look for damage; slice open to look for larvae.

HOW TO CONTROL PLUM CURCULIO

1. If fruit is unwanted, apply ethephon (Florel Fruit Eliminator) between flower bud and full bloom stages.
2. Apply insecticide treatments at petal fall stage, and again 10-14 days later. (No treatments necessary after mid-May. If you see the above described damage later in the season, apply treatments the following spring.)
 - a. Materials for *residential* application: Malathion, Sevin, Imidan (except on sweet cherry), permethrin, Surround (organic)
 - b. *Commercial* applicators can use the above, plus: Actara, Asana, Assail, Avaunt, Battalion, Calypso, Delegate, Pounce, Radiant, Warrior, and others
3. Remove all leaf, limb, and litter piles (adult beetles overwinter in protected sites).
4. Remove and destroy all fruit as it drops from trees from June through July (to kill larvae inside fruit).
5. Tree removal.

NOTE: When hiring a professional to treat your trees, verify that he/she is a licensed pesticide applicator. Please check the yellow pages for specific companies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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