

PEST: Diaprepes Root Weevil (*Diaprepes abbreviatus*)

BASIC PROFILE: Diaprepes is a beetle pest that attacks many ornamentals as well as sweet potatoes, sugarcane and citrus trees. Adults are variable in color: yellow-orange and gray-black, 10 -19mm (3/8 – 3/4 inch) long. Larvae feed on roots; adults feed on leaves and lay eggs in folds on leaves. The larvae are grub-like and may reach a size of up to 25mm (1 inch). Larval root damage causes decline, provides entrance for disease and may kill plants. It also reduces quality of root crops. Adult feeding damages citrus fruit and defoliates plants. Diaprepes spreads through movement of infested nursery stock / soil.

LDAF ACTIVITY: Diaprepes has been found in isolated areas of Orleans, Plaquemines and Terrebonne parishes. LDAF is conducting surveys for the weevil. Because no pheromone has been identified, most survey is done visually, looking for leaf damage, eggs, frass, and adults. Soil and root samples may be taken for larvae at high-risk sites. Control requirements and restrictions may be placed on infested properties. Pesticides are not highly effective but offer better control than cultural and biological controls in Louisiana’s climate and soil. BMPs will be used in areas where the weevil becomes established.

