



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of  
**AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY**

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Commissioner

**PEST:** Boll Weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*)

**BASIC PROFILE:** The boll weevil (BW) attacks cotton and is considered one of the worst cotton pests known. Adults are variable in color: yellow, gray to brown 6-10 mm (1/4 – 3/8 inch) long. Eggs are laid in cotton squares or bolls where larvae hatch and feed for 7-14 days before pupating. Larvae are 5-10 mm (3/16 – 3/8 inch) long, white, strongly curved and wrinkled on the back, with a brown head. Adults emerge from bolls 3-7 days after pupation and feed on cotton terminals, squares or maturing bolls causing fruit drop and significant yield losses. There can be up to 8 generations annually but 4 is the norm. Adults enter diapause (a period of suspended growth and activity) in winter, usually in field trash or in wooded areas adjacent to cotton fields.

**LDAF ACTIVITY:** Boll weevil was last trapped in Louisiana in 2010, and the state was officially designated as eradicated in 2012. Currently, LDAF continues to monitor for BW by trapping at lower trap densities.

ADULTS



DAMAGED BOLL & LARVAE

