

Plum Curculio (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*)

Plum curculio (PC) is native to North America where it is a major pest of pome and stone fruits. Only one generation occurs per year in Minnesota.

PC overwinter as adults in the soil within the orchard or in nearby woodlands. Adult weevils (snout beetles) emerge in early spring (usually around apple bloom), and fly to apple trees. Adult migration may continue for weeks.

Adult is dark brown with whitish-gray patches and four humps on the elytra (wing covers). Body length is about 5 mm. The snout is about 1/4 of the body length and curved downward.



Adult PC

■ 5 mm

Picture source: MSU



Mature PC larva

■ 8 mm

Adults mate in spring, and females deposit **eggs** singly under the skin of developing apple fruits.

Larva (grub) is legless and C-shaped. Mature larva is grayish-white with a brown head. Body length is about 8 mm. Larvae feed within the fruit, emerging as adult weevils between July and August (summer adults).

Fruit injury results from egg-laying activities of spring adult females (oviposition injury or surface scars), feeding activities of larvae within the fruit (internal injury), or feeding activities of summer adults.

During egg-laying, a female PC makes a small hole in the fruit with her snout, deposits an egg in the hole, and creates a crescent-shaped slit just beneath the egg hole. Most of these fruits will drop prematurely.



Egg-laying injury



Feeding on young fruit



Feeding injury caused by summer adults



Fruits with oviposition injury will show surface scar at maturity



Apple curculio

PC may be confused with apple curculio (AC), oak weevil, or white pine weevil (page 47). AC is brown and has a snout almost as long as body. Body length is also about 5 mm.

Refer to the *Integrated Pest Management Manual for Minnesota Apple Orchards* for information on monitoring and management options.