

Apple Blossom Weevil

The Apple Blossom Weevil (*Anthonomus pomorum*) is most commonly found on apple trees but pear, quince and sometimes medlars are also attacked.



DAMAGE

In early spring the adult beetle, which is around 4mm in length, dark brown with a light coloured 'V' marking on its back and a long snout, emerges from hibernation to climb up and lay its eggs on young flower buds, one egg per bud. The young larvae soon hatch and start to feed on the developing anthers and styles and attack the petals forming a characteristic brown 'capped' blossom, where the flower remains closed with dead petals still attached. Closer examination of the damaged flowers may reveal a white larvae or pupae inside. Fruit either does not form from buds affected or forms but is distorted ('cat faced'). Adult beetles appear during June or July and feed on leaves for around a month before seeking out a place to hibernate over winter. Normal hibernation places include under loose bark, stones or under dead leaves.

CONTROL

There are no recommended chemical controls available to the amateur gardener in this country. Measures, such as raking up fallen leaves and destroying them should be taken to try and minimise the number of places the weevil can over winter.