

Strawberry Seed Beetle

The strawberry seed beetle is a very common and widespread pest of strawberry.



DAMAGE:

The strawberry seed beetle is quite large, 12-18mm in length, with a black body. During the daytime they hide under stones and leaves and come out to feed at night. The beetles remove the seeds from the fruit, causing damage to the surrounding flesh causing the fruits to shrivel and rot. The damage is usually situated on the underside of the fruit nearer the soil.

Seed beetle damage is often confused with damage caused by Linnets. Linnets however usually remove the seeds without damaging the flesh and normally attack the upper surface of the fruit.

CONTROL:

Unfortunately there is not an insecticide available to the amateur gardener for controlling this pest as they feed near harvest time. In order to reduce the number of beetles, try sinking jam jars into the soil to catch them. The strawberry bed should be kept free from weeds, to discourage a build up of this pest, since out of the strawberry season the beetle will feed on weed seeds.