Plum curculio

*Conotrachelus nenuphar* (Herbst)

**Hosts**

All 🌴🍇🍏

**Time of concern**

Beginning shortly after petal fall.

**Damage, symptoms and pest cycle**

Attacks all deciduous tree fruits. The larvae bore into and create galleries in stone fruits. In August, the adults that will overwinter in the north, or those that will produce a second generation in the south, feed on fruits before seeking overwintering sites in leaf litter near the orchard. Some oviposition of this brood also results in larval fruit infestations in late summer.

The adult is mottled gray-should black and brown. Its head is prolonged into a large but short snout that bears antennae. Each elytron has a series of humps with the second and third pairs separated by a clear transverse band.

The white elliptical eggs are deposited under the skin of the fruit in a crescent-shaped slit. The whitish larva, with no functional legs, has a C-shaped body, an elliptical head and a brown thoracic shield.

**IPM steps for beginners**

Monitor regularly for fresh damage on fruit. Apply protective sprays during the egglaying period, starting at petal fall; a degree-day model can be used to predict the portion of the oviposition period during which insecticide protection would be required.