

**Insect pests of flowers**

**Blueberry blossom weevil**

This is a dark reddish beetle 2 mm long with white flecks on the wing covers and a snout nose. It overwinters in wooded areas near fields and moves to blueberry bushes as early as bud swell.



■ 2 mm

There is typically one generation per year in blueberry fields. This pest is most common in eastern North America.

Beetles drop to the ground when disturbed and move off plants if temperatures drop. Beetles can be scouted for on warm spring days using a white beating tray.

Feeding can occur as buds expand, but most injury occurs as flower buds open. The female drills a hole into the flower buds, lays an egg into each drilled flower, and may also clip the pedicel. A small, legless, yellow-white grub with a brown head develops and feeds inside the flower bud, preventing flowering. The injured buds drop to the ground, where the larvae grow and then pupate. Adults develop in late spring and may feed on foliage, leaving small puncture marks.

