

Conotrachelus nenuphar
Plum Curculio

**NOT KNOWN TO
OCCUR IN IDAHO**



Photo by Tom Murray, bugguide.net

HOSTS

This species is primarily a pest of plums and peaches, but can also damage cherries, nectarines and apricots. Various species of wild plums have also been found to harbor them. Adults will feed on and damage apples and pears, but few larvae are usually found in these hosts – they can only survive in dropped fruit of this type.

LIFE HISTORY

Plum curculio beetles are mottled brown, gray, black and orange, about 1/4 inch long, and have prominent snouts, measuring nearly 1/3 the length of their bodies. They have four characteristic humps on their wing covers. Adults overwinter in the soil or in hedgerows near host trees, from where they emerge in early spring to feed and mate. Females lay eggs within the fruit. Larvae have grayish-white, grub-like bodies with brown heads and can be found inside infested fruit. Feeding may last for 2–3 weeks before they leave the fruit and burrow into the ground to pupate. Adults emerge in mid to late summer to cause more feeding damage on mature fruit before they overwinter.

DAMAGE

Both the adult and larval stages injure fruits. In spring, adults feed on buds, blossoms, leaves and new fruits. Feeding scars can be manifested as shallow cavities on the fruit surface. Early feeding and egg laying punctures can result in malformation of the fruit, known as "cat-facing". Larval feeding in apples can cause distortion of the fruit as well as premature fruit drop.



Photo by Clemson University-USDA Cooperative Extension



Photo by J.F. Walgenbach, NCSU



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Photo by Steve Schoof, NCSU