

# Agave Snout Weevils

## What are Agave Snout Weevils?

Agave snout weevils are beetles about 6/10 inch (15 mm) in length, brownish-black and have a dull body. Being a weevil, it has a protruding snout and chewing mouthparts. The adult female enters the base of the plant to lay eggs in the spring. These eggs hatch into larvae (grubs) that feed on the succulent core of the plant. The weevil's damage is significant, but the weevil opens the plant to decay microbes which enter the plant causing it to die and collapse from the base upward. The larvae have chewing mouthparts and develop in the dying plant, pupate, and often infect other agaves nearby. These symptoms are almost always associated with infestations by the agave weevil, and it is currently thought that this disease would not develop if not for the weevil damage. I would not be surprised if further investigation revealed that weevils purposely harbor and introduce the pathogens to expedite the decay process making the agave easier to colonize and feed upon by snout weevils.



**Adult Agave Snout Weevil**

## Important note from the technician:

“Weevils do a very good job of staying out of sight. You will almost never know there’s an issue until it’s too late. Prevention is the only solution.”



## How to prevent Weevils?

Control of the agave snout weevil is difficult. Selecting species that are less susceptible and typically smaller than the century plant is helpful, especially in areas where the problem has occurred previously. Minor infestations can be controlled by removing and discarding the affected plants. With rare or special specimens, chemical prevention using a broad-spectrum insecticide applied to the soil at the base of the agave plants in spring would also be effective in controlling agave snout weevil populations. Diazinon granules were once used to control agave snout weevils, but it is no longer available to home gardeners. Imidacloprid or cyhalothrin granules are a suitable replacement for Diazinon when soil applied insecticides are deemed necessary.

## **Infested Agave plant**



**Weevil larva infesting an Agave plant**

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- In-house Plant health care division
- Certified Spray Technician
- Over 30 years experience in Commercial & HOA Landscape
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