

# Root Weevils

## Root weevils drive gardeners crazy.

Because they feed at night, we see damage, but no insects. Notched leaf edges are likely signs of root weevil feeding.

Root weevil adults chew primarily on broadleaf evergreen shrubs that are under stress. Rhododendrons, azaleas, viburnums and laurels are likely targets.

Mild to severe notching of new leaves is mainly an aesthetic nuisance and will usually not damage the plant's overall health. Because evergreen plants retain their leaves, the notching will be seen until leaves drop in two years.


## What you can do

- Use appropriate water and compost mulch to help keep your evergreen shrubs healthy.
- To limit root weevil damage, apply sticky or slippery barriers around the stem near the ground. These products discourage or trap weevils when they travel up the stem. They work well when they are not touching other plants and there are no overhanging plants.
- Replace with other plants or with rhododendron varieties that are resistant to weevils. Plants vary in resistance from 0% to 100%. Visit our web site for links to sites that list resistant varieties of rhododendrons.

## What In Harmony can do

- Use quality organic fertilizers to help keep your plants healthy. Proper watering and fertilizing are very important for effective weevil control.

We use two approaches for control of root weevils:

- Apply a liquid solution containing beneficial nematodes that attack larvae in the soil.
- Apply a foliar spray of a naturally occurring insecticide (neem oil). Summer conditions are too dry to use nematodes. 

## References

- Root Weevil Control on Rhododendrons. Antonelli, A.L. and Campbell, R.L. Washington State University Cooperative Extension. <http://www.cahe.wsu.edu/infopub/eb0970/eb0970.html>
- Root Weevil on Rhododendrons. Dickey, P. Pro IPM: Integrated Pest Management Solutions for the Landscaping Professional. 2000.
- Pacific Northwest Landscape IPM Manual. Bobbitt, V.M., Antonelli, A.L., Foss, C.R., Davidson, R.M., Byther, R.S., and Maleike, R.R. Washington State University Cooperative Extension. 1996.

