

## Alfalfa Weevil

Alfalfa weevil can be a very damaging pest to alfalfa yield and quality, as both larvae and adults consume leaf tissue.

**Identification:** Adult weevils are brown beetles with a dark brown stripe. Larvae are yellow-ish green with a white stripe. They typically are under 1/2" in length.

**Lifecycle:** Weevil adults begin feeding in April - May. During this time they lay eggs, which hatch within 2-3 weeks. The young larvae can consume vast quantities of foliage in a 3-4 week period, at which time they mature into pupa and are no longer damaging alfalfa stands. Late in spring, the pupa become adults and have a short feeding period before going dormant until late summer and laying eggs. Fall eggs rarely overwinter, however with mild winters they can survive resulting in prolonged spring feeding periods.

**Management:** If treatment is needed (use Iowa State or Purdue Economic Injury Guidelines) consider the following options:

**Cutting:** Taking a cut a bit early can be considered once plants are 18" in height. Cutting removes the food source and exposes weevils to light and predation; however, under heavy or early infestations it is possible to get a recurrence.

**Chemical Insecticide:** If cutting early is not feasible (due to economics, weather, time, etc), consider a chemical insecticide application. Weevils are known to have some resistance to herbicides (pyrethroids), so work with your ag retailer to find the best option for your situation.

*\*\*Always read and follow label instructions!*

