

A.R.T. News

Rice and Grain Weevils

The rice and grain weevil are pests of stored grain and seeds. The adults are 1/8" long, have a distinct snout and are dull reddish brown. It attacks corn, wheat, rice, beans, nuts, cereals, rye, buckwheat, flour, pastas, dry fruits, wheat products and grapes.

Rice and granary weevils are harmless to people, houses, furniture, clothing and pets. They cannot bite or sting and they do not carry diseases. They will not feed on furniture, the house structure or other items. The harm they do is destruction of the seeds they infest and the annoyance of being in the wrong place.

Presence of weevils inside the house usually indicates there is infested whole grain or seeds. The first indication that a pest infestation exists is often the discovery of large numbers of beetles or worm- like immature insects crawling about in a box or container of cereal or spices. When this happens, the infested product can simply be discarded.

A quick check of other nearby containers should be made. All containers of dry packaged foods or spices must be examined carefully. Unopened containers must also be checked to be sure that pests have not gained entry. Infested foods should be thrown away and the shelves cleaned thoroughly to eliminate food material and insect eggs or larvae, which may be in cracks or corners.