

HAVEN NURSERIES LTD

Crab Lane Bobbington, Stourbridge, West Midlands. DY7 5DZ

HOW TO WIN THE BATTLE OF GOOD VERSUS WEEVIL!

When the growing season is in full swing, it is time to watch out for the appearance of the Vine Weevil.

Once these bugs have invaded plants and their larvae are in the roots, there is little you can do to save them. The adult Weevil is a greyish-black beetle 9mm long, with a short snout & elbowed antennae, bent at an angle. They feed at night, hiding under garden debris during the day. Signs of adult presence include notches on the leaf margins from mid spring to mid autumn.

The reason most damage is near the ground is because the beetles cannot fly, although they are capable of climbing almost any surface except those, which are completely smooth. However, it is the grubs that do the most damage. They devour roots & outer tissue of woody plants. The problem is the larvae remain undetected until it is often too late. You should always check the roots of new plants before planting.

Vine Weevil love rhododendrons, hydrangeas, camellias & other shrubs, fuchsias, cyclamen, impatiens, primulas, sedum, begonias & strawberries.

Symptoms of attack are that the leaves wilt, the plant collapses & dies. The adults lay their eggs in spring & summer, so damage occurs between autumn & spring.

Control of vine weevils is not easy, although you can deter them by keeping the garden clean & tidy by removing plant debris regularly. Night hunts for vine weevils as well as slugs prove very successful. Trap them, by rolling a piece of corrugated cardboard loosely & tie with a rubber band, then position among the plants. The adults may move into them in daytime thinking they are a safe haven. Gather them in the afternoon & dispose of them. Rub Vaseline around the rims of pots & mulch the surface with ornamental gravel such as slate or stone, thereby preventing the female from digging into the surface of the soil to lay her eggs.

'Provado' is a product that will kill vine weevil at certain times of the year. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to sell 'Armillatox' as an effective deterrent against vine weevil, only as a patio cleaner - although the product remains the same!