

PREVENTION OF STORAGE LOSSES

Store clean

Dry and un infested cobs or grains and maintain clean storage conditions .

Sunning

Exposing the infested cobs/grains to strong sunlight can kill insects

Admixture of ashes

The ash provides a coating on the grain which prevents insect damage

Smoking

By hanging maize cobs above the fire, the heat might reduce the moisture content or the smoke may deter the insects to lay eggs

Removal

Of insects by hand, sieving or winnowing

Rough grinding

This technique is followed by some farmers where grains are coarsely ground into 3-4 pieces and they appear to keep free of infestation up to a year

Use rodent traps and domesticated cats



Use super grain bags

At oxygen level of less than 5% insects cannot grow and multiply.

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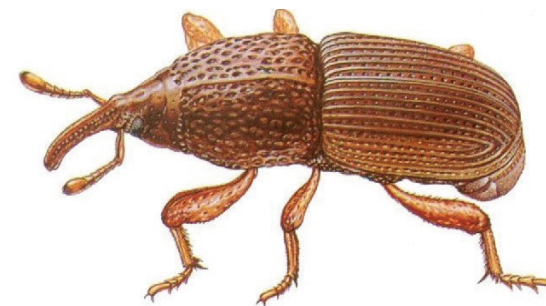


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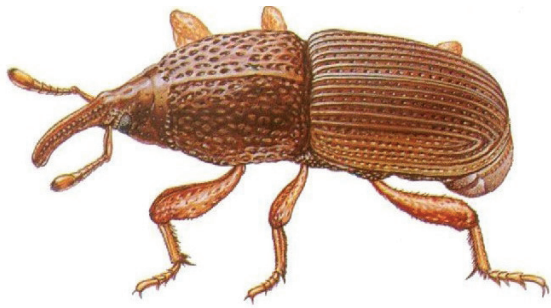
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MAIZE WEEVIL (*Sitophilus zeamais*)

Adults are reddish brown beetles with a characteristic long weevil snout and have 4 yellow to red spots on the elytra. The eggs are laid individually in small holes chewed into the grain by the female. After hatching, the larvae begin to feed inside the grain often leaving only the hulls, a flour-like grain dust, mixed with frass is evident. Pupation takes place within the grain and the newly developed adults chew its way out leaving a characteristic and large emergence hole.



Weevil in maize kernel

ANGOUMOIS GRAIN MOTH

(*Sitotroga cerealella*)

The adult is a small buff to yellowish-brown moth about one-third inch long with a wingspan of one-half inch. The eggs are white when first deposited, but soon turn red. Full grown larvae are one-fifth inch long and white with a yellow head. Larval stages develop entirely within a grain kernel. Their feeding causes a reduction in grain weight and quality. An infested kernel is mostly hollow with a round hole through which the moth emerges.



Weevil damage in maize cobs

Rodent

Rodents (rats and mice) cause much loss and damage to food grain.

- They damage crop in field and storage
- They eat and destroy the grain
- They foul and contaminate grain and cooked food with their feces, urine and hairs
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