



PLUM CURCULIO



Plum Curculio (*Conotrachelus nenuphar*) impacts fruits such as apples, plums, apricots, peaches, cherries and other pome and orchard stone fruits. The small weevil overwinters as an adult in the soil and tree crevices. The adults emerge around the time that apples bloom (April), 60% of the population emerging on the same day. After 6 weeks of feeding and mating, female weevils lay between 400-500 eggs. Adult weevils leave characteristic crescent-shaped scars on the fruit's surface as they puncture it to feed and lay eggs. Upon hatching, the larvae tunnel into the fruit for 2-3 weeks, causing the fruit to drop. Larva pupate in the soil and a second generation emerges in late summer. Plum Curculio has been reported as an increasing pest of concern and leading cause of crop damage at POP orchards.

Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
Feb - Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If available, bring chickens or ducks through the area to prey on overwintering pupa. 	
Apr	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor emergence with shake method. At bud break, lay bed sheet under canopy and shake the tree vigorously to cause plum curculio to fall onto sheet. Apply Kaolin clay (Surround) to protect vulnerable trees. For severe infestations, mix Pyganic and either Grandevo or Venerate into the tank with the Surround. Spray at tight cluster and pink bud (about 7-10 days apart). Do not apply during full bloom! <p>Pyrethrin sprays are organic pesticides containing chemicals taken from chrysanthemum flowers that can be effective at killing certain orchard pests. NOTE: While they are less toxic than chemical pesticides, they should be used with caution and only when non-chemical controls have not been effective. Learn more about pyrethrin sprays on the POP blog!</p>	



Month	Tasks	Observations & Dates Completed
May - Jun	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Spray beneficial nematodes under affected trees to feed on larvae in soil.2. As fruitlets form and grow, thin clusters to allow for sunlight, airflow and healthier fruit. Thinning also helps reduce the spread of disease and insects injuring fruit by feeding and laying eggs within clusters.3. Continue kaolin clay applications at petal fall and again 7-10 days later.	
Jul - Oct	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. As fruit develops, be on the lookout for crescent-shaped scars on fruit. These markings are an indication that eggs have been laid in the fruit. Eggs laid on stone fruit do significant damage, so remove and dispose of immediately. Eggs laid on pome fruit should be thinned once reach a threshold of 5 scars.2. Practice consistent orchard sanitation every other day by picking up any dropped fruit on the orchard floor to avoid second generation larvae tunneling into the ground and re-emerging in July and August.3. If available, bring chickens or ducks through the area to feed on fallen fruit and larvae.4. Second generation will continue emerging through October. Continue practice of picking up dropped fruit and removing scarred stone fruit.	
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spray beneficial nematodes to help manage larvae in the soil.	

Resources Used:

[Monthly Orchard Task List](#) — [Plum Curculio: A Pome and Stone Fruit Pest](#) — [Kaolin Clay Sprays for Fruit Trees](#) — [Pyrethrin Orchard Sprays](#) — [Controlling Plum Curculio \(The Natural Gardener\)](#)