

Reoccurrence of new pest - pea weevil in Montana

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Figure 1. Damaged peas with live pea weevil collected from Chester area. All peas shown adult exit hole in the seeds that are commonly found in the stored product.

The pea weevil *Bru-chus pisorum* L. (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae), not to be confused with the more common pea leaf weevil, is one of the most problematic insect pests on field peas particularly in US Western States.

The larvae feeding inside the developing dry pea seed cause damage. Weevil infestations ranges between 30-70% in untreated crops with high level-presence of the pest already. Affected peas are unfit for human consumption and their seed germination rate decreases, which in turn diminishes the market value.

In Montana, damage by this weevil was reported for the first time in the Hi-Line area in 2014, which alarmed pea growers and stakeholders because this pest could easily spread to neighboring pea-growing areas. Consequently, with the funding from USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, pea weevil surveys were carried out during 2016 and 2017 in 33

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field sites, five elevators and 16 farm bins in the Golden Triangle Area including Hi-Line area by WTARC staff. The primary objective was to determine the damage potential and distribution of the pea weevil. Although, no incidence of weevil was noticed in the surveys of 2016–2017, damaged seeds with live pea weevils were confirmed from the Chester area (December, 2017) by the State Grain Lab. This incidence indicates the necessity of continuing the survey work.

In an event of significant levels of crop damage and noticeable population levels, efforts will be undertaken to obtain a USDA-APHIS permit to introduce the pea weevil egg parasitoid *Uscana senex* (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) into Montana. This parasitoid, is reported to show up to 82% of parasitism rate. Detailed information on the biology, ecology and management of pea weevil was recently reviewed and published by our team.

If anyone has noticed peas with holes, please send the samples (preferably one to

two lbs) to Ms. Rama Gadi, Western Triangle Ag Research Center, Montana State University, 9546 Old Shelby Rd., P. O. Box 656, Conrad, MT 59425 or contact for pick up the samples; Phone: 406-278-7707 (office); 406-450-1835 (mobile); E-mail: ramadevi.gadi@montana.edu



Figure 2. Brown colored, globular shape adult *Bruchus pisorum* with white patches. Scale – 1 mm.

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