Pea weevil - Brachus pisorum (L.) - Primary insect pest

Classification
Primary pest; Brachus pisorum (L.)
Order: Coleoptera
Family: Chrysomelidae
Acronym: BPI

Description
- Adults are 6 to 7 mm long, globular in shape with long legs
- Elytra do not reach the end of the abdomen, leaving the last terga exposed
- Last abdominal terga is covered with black and white setae and the inner ridge of the ventral margin of the hind femur has a single spine
- Larvae are white and grub-like, having reduced legs

Similar species
- Bean weevil (Acanthoscelides obtectus)
- Southern cowpea weevil (Callosobruchus chinensis)

Commodities affected
- Peas

Signs of infestation
- Damaged seeds with entrance or exit holes as described in “Damage”

Damage
- Damage is distinctive.
- Both adult and larvae feed on the inside of seeds.
- Feeding causes tiny, dot-like entrance holes.
- Feeding also causes larger, round exit holes with a diameter of 2.5 mm and excavated seed.
- Large populations may reduce stored crop to little more than dust.

How to control
- Control grain insect pests

Geographic range
- Is distributed worldwide
- Is distributed across Canada

Where found
- Weevils attacks peas that are grown in gardens and fields.
- Infestation results in seeds that may not germinate or produce weak plants.
- Weevils cannot persist in storage as they cannot re-infest stored seed.
- Main sources of pea weevil are broken peas, volunteer peas and stored infested seed.

Life history
Females lay eggs on outside of pod.  
Larvae develop in growing seeds within pods.  
After pupation within the seed, the adult chews an exit hole through the seed coat.

Images

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