

Problem: Elm Flea Weevil



Hosts: Elm. Including American, Chinese, Siberian and hybrids. Siberian Elm is preferred.

Description: The adult of this insect is a very small (1/8 inch) brown weevil with dark spots on the back. It sports a short, curved snout and has the ability to hop.

Life History: Overwintering adults lay eggs on newly formed leaves. The larvae feed inside the leaf for several weeks and leave a serpentine pattern that ends on a leaf edge. The larvae pupate inside the leaf near the edge. Emerging adults feed on the leaves through much of the summer and then overwinter as adults. There is one generation per year.

Damage: The larva produces a serpentine pattern in the leaf that terminates on a leaf edge. Adult feeding damage produces a shothole pattern in the leaves. Heavily fed upon leaves appear lacy.

Recommendations: Trees typically recover from even heavy feedings and so we do not expect the insect to be harmful to otherwise healthy trees.

References:

1. [European Elm Flea Weevil](#), University of Minnesota Extension
2. [Another 'New' Insect Pest in Iowa, European Elm Flea Weevil](#), Horticulture & Home Pest News, July 13, 2011, Iowa State University

Last Update: 10/25/2023

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