

Oak Leaf Rolling Weevil on oak

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FIG. 1

Type Pest: chewing insect (*Homoeolabus analis* Illiger)

Type Metamorphous: complete (egg, larva, pupa, adult stages)

Period of Primary Occurrence: March through May

- Leaf-rolling activities begin after the new spring leaves have expanded
- Leaf-rolling continues through the summer with peaks of activity while the new spring leaves are still soft
- Leaf-rolling can continue into the summer (June – September) if a new flush of growth appears with the onset of summer rains

Plants Affected

- Associated with many oak species (*Quercus* spp.)
- Live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) is particularly favored in Galveston-Houston area
- Throughout its range (mid-Texas eastward to Maine and into southeastern Canada), this leaf-rolling weevil species has been reported to reproduce on at least 16 species of oaks and two species of chestnut

Identifying Characteristics of Insect Pest

EGG STAGE

- Eggs are spherical and yellowish
- Females typically deposit a single egg into each roll. Occasionally, more than one egg may be laid, especially when tender leaves are in short supply

LARVAL / PUPAL STAGES

- Larvae develop in and feed upon leaf rolls
- Larvae are legless, C-shaped, and grub-like
- Some leaf rolls usually fall to the ground and some remain attached to the leaf
- Overwinters as a prepupa and pupates in the spring
- Pupal stage lasts for about a week



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

ADULT STAGE

- Adults are strikingly-colored weevils
- The body is red with a black head and legs, and a shiny porcelain-like finish to its outer wing covers (known as elytra)
- The head of the male is more elongated than that of the female
- Only females are leaf rollers
- Body is approximately ¼" (6 mm) long

Description / Symptoms

- Adults feed by skeletonizing or chewing small holes in the leaves of oaks
- Portions of some leaves are damaged by construction of leaf rolls (Fig. 7)
- A female weevil lays a single egg on young oak leaves at the terminal end, then scores the leaf and tightly rolls it up into a little incubator to protect it (Fig. 1 & 6)
- Once a leaf roll has aged a couple days, the leaf tissue dries into a hard casing around the egg (Fig. 3)
- These leaf rolls may be severed from their point of attachment to a leaf and fall to the ground; area under tree canopy may contain numerous detached leaf rolls
- Some leaf rolls may remain attached

Best Management Practices (BMP)

- The beetles cause no significant harm to the tree. Control measures are not recommended



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Always remember to read and heed six of the most important words on the label: "KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN"

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