



North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Meg Scott Phipps, Commissioner

Best Management Practices Sweetpotato Weevil



The sweetpotato weevil is one of the most destructive insects associated with sweetpotato production. While the weevil is known to occur in several southern states, including the extreme coastal areas of North Carolina, it does not occur routinely in commercial sweetpotato production areas in our state. Continuing to maintain areas free of the sweetpotato weevil is important to our state. Sweetpotato producers, along with associated industry representatives must work cooperatively to ensure North Carolina commercial production areas remain weevil-free. Several management practices to reduce the risk of weevil introductions and to minimize the impact of this pest follow:

Quarantine and Compliance Monitoring

- :: Routinely track the current quarantine status of the sweetpotato weevil in North Carolina and other states.
- :: Contact the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) regarding the potential movement of any sweetpotatoes from outside the state to determine requirements for entry.
- :: Report any sweetpotato weevil suspects immediately to NCDA&CS.
- :: Report sweetpotato acreage to your local Farm Service Agency office each year to permit NCDA&CS to effectively trap all production fields.
- :: Report any fields that have not been trapped to NCDA&CS.
- :: Provide a list of all sweetpotato storage buildings to your local NCDA&CS field specialist.
- :: Sweetpotato weevil traps should not be disturbed. Report any observed damaged traps to NCDA&CS.
- :: Maintain contact information for sales of sweetpotatoes for deer or related off farm sales.

Sweetpotato Plant Material

- :: Purchase only certified and tagged sweetpotato weevil-free plants from known sources.
- :: Request that suppliers provide you with inspection/certification documentation and maintain this information on file.
- :: Do not grow sweetpotatoes within the vicinity of handling and storage facilities.
- :: Plants should be cut, not pulled from the bed or greenhouse to minimize the spread of the sweetpotato weevil.
- :: Producers must maintain detailed records for field, plant bed, greenhouse, farm storage activities along with details for any movement of sweetpotatoes.
- :: Plant beds must be destroyed as soon as possible to avoid refuge sites or sources for the weevil and other sweetpotato pests.

Cultural/Sanitation Measures

- :: Implement effective sanitation measures in all aspects of operations especially related to growing or storage of sweetpotatoes, packing lines, cull piles, and around storage areas.
- :: Use clean bins and boxes with plants and sweetpotatoes. With the exchange of bins or boxes, segregate used items until they have been properly sanitized.
- :: As storage facilities allow, store and isolate seed sweetpotatoes in separate locations from other sweetpotatoes.
- :: Control sweetpotato weevil wild hosts such as morningglory in the vicinity of operations.
- :: Encourage personnel to adopt sanitary practices in their movement and production activities.
- :: Design a plan for sanitary disposal of all cull material.

Facility/Site Management

- :: Design future facilities and storage areas such that greenhouse, storage, and production are separated by as much distance as possible.
- :: Routinely clean and sanitize your storage facilities.

Information/ Education/ Research

- :: Support NCSU research/extension efforts related to the sweetpotato weevil.
- :: For information related to biology and management of the sweetpotato weevil, contact your local county cooperative extension agent or the NCSU Entomology Extension Entomologist through the following web site: <http://ipm.ncsu.edu/TopicResults.cfm?TopSubID=40> or <http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/entomology/>
- :: For information or assistance with quarantine information, inspections, trapping, or monitoring, contact your local NCDA&CS Specialist or Staff Entomologist at 1-800-206-9333, email: ncspw@ncmail.net, or through the NCDA&CS web site: <http://www.ncagr.com/plantind/plant/entomol/SPW.htm>

Published by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Plant Industry Division in cooperation with N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, N.C. Certified SweetPotato Seed Producers Association, and the N.C. SweetPotato Commission.



www.ncagr.com

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service
Helping people put knowledge to work
www.ces.ncsu.edu



**North Carolina
SweetPotatoes**
Nature's Health Food.
www.ncsweetpotatoes.com