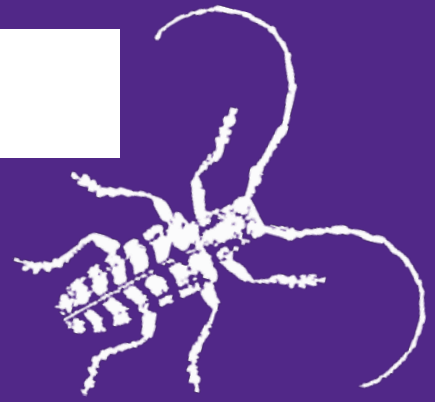


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May 15, 2020 No. 6

European Elm Flea Weevil
ID to last week's bug
Identify This Insect

European Elm Flea Weevil

We are seeing damage on elm (*Ulmus* spp.) trees caused by the larvae and adults of the European elm flea weevil (*Orchestes alni*). Larvae are cream-colored, legless (Figure 1), and located in the mines of leaves. Adults are 3 mm (0.11 inches) in length, red-brown, with black spots or markings on the abdomen or wing covers (Figure 2). The mouthpart is shaped-like a snout (Figure 3) since they are weevils and the hind legs are thickened and enlarged, which allows the adults to jump when disturbed. Adults are initially active in May, and after

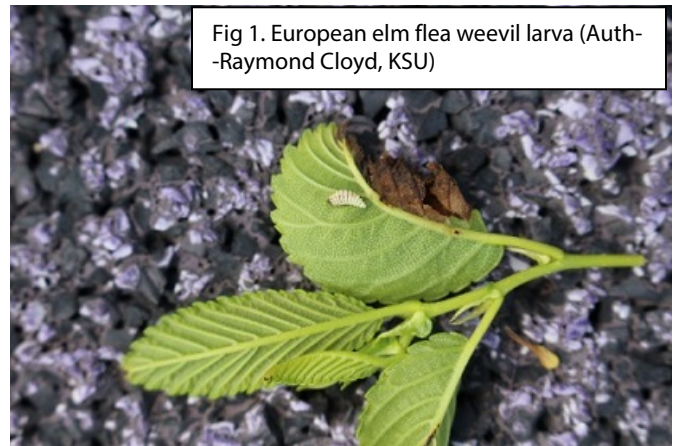


Fig 1. European elm flea weevil larva (Auth-Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Fig 2. Adult European elm flea weevil (Auth-Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

mating, females lay eggs in the large mid-veins of new leaves. Larvae hatch from eggs and tunnel through the leaf as they feed, creating serpentine-like mines that enlarge as larvae mature (Figure 4). Larvae eventually transition into a pupal stage, and then adults emerge in May through June. Adults primarily feed on leaf undersides creating small holes on young leaves (Figure 5). Feeding damage caused by larvae and adults will not kill an elm tree; however, extensive feeding damage may

Fig 3. European elm flea weevil adult (note the snout-like mouth) (Auth--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)



Fig 4. Serpentine mines created by European elm flea weevil larvae (Auth--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

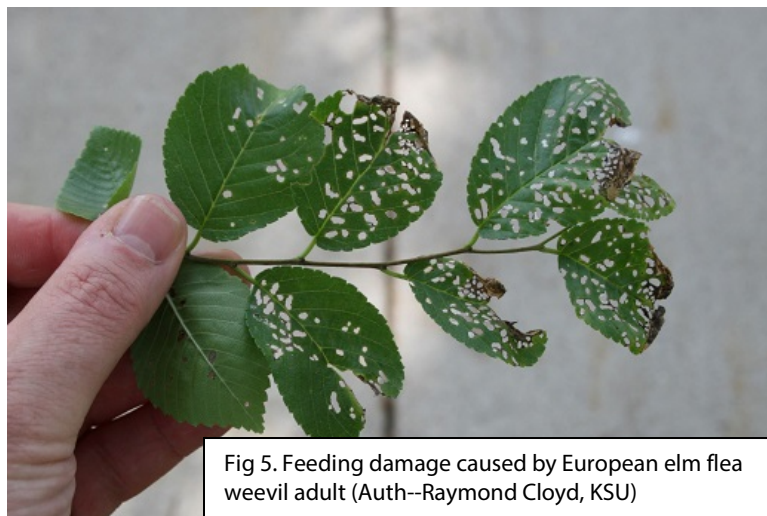


Fig 5. Feeding damage caused by European elm flea weevil adult (Auth--Raymond Cloyd, KSU)

ruin the aesthetic appearance. Adults overwinter under loose bark and in leaf litter located under previously infested trees. There is one generation per year in Kansas. Nearly all elm species are susceptible to feeding by the European elm flea weevil; especially Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*) and certain elm hybrids with Asian parentage.

Management of European elm flea weevil involves maintaining tree health by implementing proper watering, mulching, pruning, and fertilizing practices. Insecticides can be used to minimize damage; however, insecticides are difficult to apply to large trees. Contact insecticides must be applied May through June to suppress adult populations. Be sure to read the insecticide label carefully to ensure that "weevils" are listed. Thorough coverage of leaf undersides is important because adults tend to feed on the undersides of leaves. If damage is not extensive, especially on large trees, then there is no reason to apply insecticides.

Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 15, 2020 No. 6

For more information regarding European elm flea weevil management, contact your county or state extension specialist.

Raymond Cloyd

HOME

ID to last week's bug

Brown Recluse - This spider is a brown recluse, but is exhibiting a color shift (usually they have a darker colored abdomen). This can be caused by the diet the spider ate or due to where it is living (notice the lighter colored background). If you are interested in learning more about their life cycle, biology, and feeding habits a good resource can be found at: <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF3133.pdf>

Frannie Miller

HOME

Identify This Insect

Can you identify this insect and share one interesting fact you found?



Kansas Insect Newsletter

May 15, 2020 No. 6

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