



Banana Weevil (*Cosmopolites sordidus*)

What is a banana weevil?

Cosmopolites sordidus (banana weevil) is native to Malaysia and Indonesia and was introduced to Australia before 1900. It is now found throughout coastal Queensland and New South Wales, associated with cultivated and wild bananas.

The banana weevil is a pest of banana (*Musa*) and Manilla hemp (*Abaca*). It attacks and damages all varieties of banana and plants belonging to the genus *Musa*.

Banana weevils cause damage to the corm of the banana plant as the larva, or grub, of the weevil feeds and tunnels in. This can cause reduced plant growth and weak or dying suckers.

Other common names for the banana weevil are the banana root borer or banana weevil borer. Its scientific name is *Cosmopolites sordidus* (Germer) [Insecta; Coleoptera: Curculionidae].

How to detect the presence of banana weevils

Symptoms that banana weevils are present on banana plants include borer holes, discoloration around the borer holes and visible weevils. Adult weevils are dark brown to grey black and about 10–12mm long with a hard shell.



Photos provided by Department of Agriculture and Water Resources

Banana weevils on Norfolk Island

Banana weevils were detected on Norfolk Island in September 2018 and reported to Biosecurity Officers of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as this pest had not been previously seen on Norfolk Island. Since this time, scientific assessment has been carried and the pest was confirmed as banana weevil. The detection was considered by the Consultative Committee on Emergency Plant Pests who determined that the banana weevil is not an emergency plant pest.

How to report suspected banana weevils

It is important to report any suspected indications that there are banana weevils to the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities on 23115. Information and advice on management of the pest can be obtained from the websites listed below or requested through the Department.

- Control measures recommended by New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland include:
 - monitoring during peak periods of March/April and September/October;
 - appropriate plantation hygiene methods and;
 - biological and chemical treatments.
- Factsheets on this pests are available on the following websites:
 - NSW Department of Primary Industries at:
dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/120052/banana-weevil-borer.pdf
 - WA Department of Regional Development and Primary Industries at:
agric.wa.gov.au/bananas/pest-management-bananas-oria
 - QLD Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at: daf.qld.gov.au/business-priorities/plants/fruit-and-vegetables/a-z-list-of-horticultural-insect-pests/banana-weevil-borer