

BLACK VINE WEEVIL

Joseph J. Maisano, Jr.
Extension Agent — Horticulture

The Black Vine Weevil and Strawberry Weevil usually feed on *Taxus* and other ornamentals. This year, several cyclamen growers reported larvae feeding on the roots of the plants. The larvae chew the roots at the base of the bulb causing the plant to wilt (Figure 1) or fall over. The roots may be completely devoured (Figure 2).

The weevils are active beginning in June and are attracted to specific hosts including cyclamen. They lay their eggs in the soil. This is a blackish snout beetle which feeds at night on plants such as *Taxus*, *Rhododendron* and *Euonymus*, chewing a half moon notch out of the leaf margin.

If the eggs are laid at the base of a cyclamen plant, they hatch and feed on the roots. The larva is a white, C-shaped brown-headed grub up to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch long. They may be found by looking in the soil under the cyclamen (Figure 3).

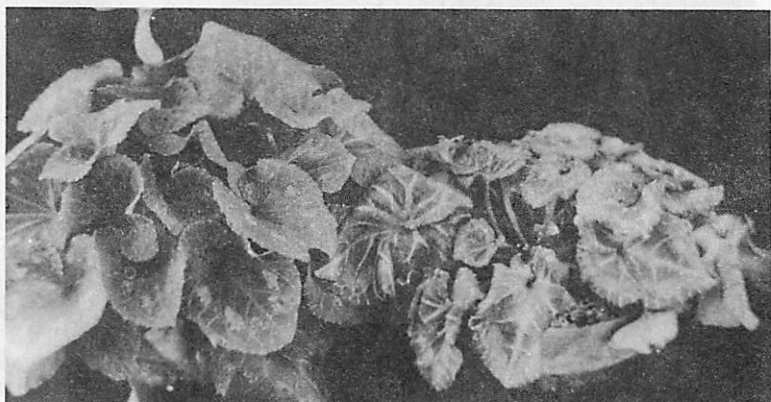


Figure 1. *Cyclamen* wilting caused by root damage by Black Vine Weevil.

Damage may not be noticed until October or November. At this time little can be done. The time for control is early September. If shrubs about the greenhouse show signs of weevil feeding, spray with Guthion (azinphosmethyl) until other effective materials become labelled. For drenching the cyclamen in September, contact your Extension agent for current recommendations.

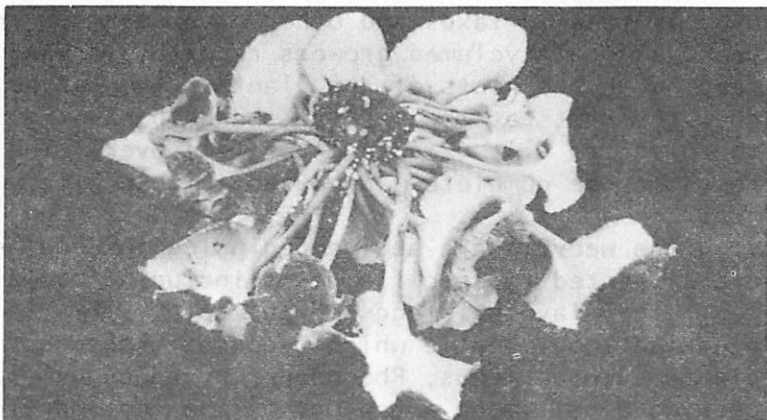


Figure 2. The weevil grubs have devoured all the roots at the base of the corm.

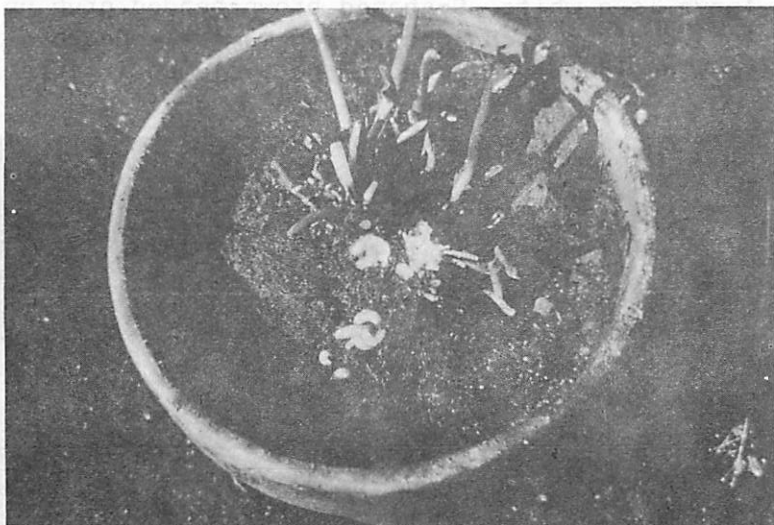


Figure 3. Weevil grubs may be quite numerous in individual pots.