Aphodius distinctus – a new pest?

Adult (5-6 mm long)

Larva (3-4 mm)

Pupa (3-4 mm)

Seasonal activity of A. distinctus (approximate)

Green shows peak activity of adults

Reports of damage

Egg

Larva

Pupa

Adult

Adult

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Seasonal activity of A. distinctus (approximate)
Please send reports of high white grub densities and associated crop damage to Kevin.Floate@agr.gc.ca (403-317-2242). We would appreciate samples of live larvae and details of field history (Lat./long.? Last year’s crop? Irrigated or not? Composted manure added in spring? Surface residue in spring? Thanks!

- European species of beetle; common across Canada
- adults are yellow and gold; 5-6 mm in length; attracted in large numbers to cattle and horse dung from mid-August through mid-October
- overwintered adults emerge in spring to lay eggs in crop land; larvae develop in the soil through the summer to emerge as new adults in autumn
- scattered reports received each June of large numbers of beetle grubs in crops associated with crop damage; e.g., canola, corn, dry bean, onion, pea

* Aphodius distinctus * reportedly feeds on rotting organic material in soil, but there is a growing suspicion that it may also feed on living roots of plants. Thus, we are trying to answer the following questions: Is *Aphodius distinctus* a pest? What attracts it to certain fields in the spring? What densities are required to see crop damage? Is there a crop preference?