

Agave weevils

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Agave weevils may be operating in your area!

I have already pulled out two *A. Americana* variegated plants from different locations that were too infested to save. Large species of *Agave* are especially vulnerable, so now is the time to treat them. If a plant appears affected, but is not to the stage that it can be broken off at soil level, try a strong solution of Diazinon poured over the entire plants and around the base. Even if the plant has died and you want to replace it with another one in the same location, it is wise to treat the soil before planting.

Healthy appearing plants may have been infested with weevil grubs and not show any signs of it. By boring into the heart of the plant, the grubs allow bacteria to infect it and cause the catastrophic decline evidenced by a flattening of the lower leaves, and the appearance of wrinkles caused by root failure. By this time, secondary insects have taken advantage of the available bonanza and are tunneling in and around the stricken plant.

If you suspect a plant is in danger, use Diazinon to kill the weevils that are there, and follow up with another dose a few days later to be sure. Treat your healthy *Agaves* with Diazinon granules sprinkled into the crown and around the base. Lightly chop the granules into the soil and water it in. This will enter the tissue of the plant, as well as kill insects that are exposed to it. I saved a large *A. pacifica* in this way last year that was loose in the soil and close to being lost. Two *A. tequilianas* would also have been lost, had I not treated them in time. I could not save a large *A. bovicornuta*, *A. colorata* or a *A. medio picta alba*, as they were too far gone.