

Public Abstract

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Graduation Term:FS 2007

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Degree:MS

Title:THE SEASONAL OCCURRENCE, SOIL DISTRIBUTION AND FLIGHT CHARACTERISTICS OF CURCULIO SAYI (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE) IN MID-MISSOURI

Chestnut trees were once a dominant sight across the deciduous forest of the eastern and central United States, but following a devastating blight in the early 1900s much of the native range for this tree species has been lost. As interest in the restoration of the American chestnut tree increases, and as commercial production of chestnut fruit is being developed using blight resistant cultivars from Asia, a large quantity of both native and hybridized trees are coming into maturity and nut production.

The two weevil species in the United States, the greater chestnut weevil (*Curculio caryatipes*, Boheman) and the lesser chestnut weevil (*Curculio sayi*, Gyllenhal) attack ripening chestnut fruit, and they can devastate a chestnut operation. Of these two species, the lesser chestnut weevil (*C. sayi*) has long been reported as the most common and most damaging chestnut pest insect species (Johnson 1956, Bessin 2003, Hunt et al. 2006). There is a paucity of recent literature that examines the ecology and life history of this pest insect, information that it is imperative to establish basic biological parameters in order to generate long-term management practices.