## Greater grain weevil on maize

*Sitophilus zeamais*

### Prevention
- Before building the stores, plan to build them well isolated, ventilated and with the least possible windows and cracks
- Early harvesting reduces the attack in the field
- **Good store hygiene is essential for controlling this pest:**
  - Before storing new grain, remove infested residues from the previous harvest. Clean the store, bags and containers
  - Dry grains until they are very dry (7-10%). Dry 2 times/week for 3 hours for at least 1-2 weeks
  - Store grains in sealed plastic bags or metallic silos
  - Make sure that the bags are stored on pallets at a sufficient distance from the ground, away from the walls and avoid touching the roof
  - Separate new grains from the old grain store
  - Maintain the store at a temperature below 10°C by ventilating and cooling
  - Apply a thin layer of ash to cover the grain in store

### Monitoring
- Every two weeks, inspect the store and sample 100 grains in bags to look for symptoms or insects
- Normally, no eggs, larvae or pupae developing inside the intact grains are observed
- Adults are dark brown in colour and 3-3.5 mm in length, with a head prolonged into a rostrum
- The females lay eggs on the stored grain and the larvae develop within these
- Grain infestation can start in the field: monitor random cobs in the field (look for adults and irregular perforations made when they feed or lay eggs)
- In the stores, use interception, pheromone, adhesive or light traps or bags with baits to monitor adults
- Take action when damage or insects are observed

### Direct Control
- Sieve infested grains and dry again in the sun to kill the remaining eggs and adults

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.

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