

## SAP BEETLES

**DESCRIPTION:** Several species. Adults: Usually black, 3/16 inch long. Larvae: White to cream colored, maggot-like, active, up to 1/4 inch long. They scatter over ear when exposed to light.



Left: Sap beetle damage, *Eugene E. Nelson, Bugwood.org* Right: sap beetle on corn, *Keith Weller, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org*

**HOST PLANTS:** Sweet corn and strawberries.

**DAMAGE:** Adults seldom do damage. Larvae eat into kernels of roasting ears. They are also associated with injury and rot on fruit and vegetables.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Eastern United States, and as far west as Colorado.

**CULTURAL CONTROL:** Damage is less where varieties with long tight husks are grown and where the corn earworm is controlled by pesticides.

**ORGANIC/BIOLOGICAL CONTROL:** Remove damaged ears as soon as possible. Conduct a thorough post-harvest clean up to remove potential overwintering sites.

**CHEMICAL CONTROL:** Treat with a registered insecticide. For Sweet Corn: Apply to silks every other day beginning at 10% silking and continuing until 90% of silks have wilted and turned brown. *Caution: Honeybees are necessary for good fruit set; insecticides are toxic to bees. Apply in evening when fewer bees are working.*