

LESSER GRAIN BORER

INTRODUCTION

The lesser grain borer is a primary pest of whole grains, especially wheat, sorghum and corn. The adults chew a small hole in the kernel and then lay several eggs in the grain or in the grain mass. Damage is seldom noticed until exit holes appear and adults are seen roaming the grain mass. The lesser grain borer can pulverize the commodity and turn it into a flour like product. The lesser grain borer thrives best in temperate zones.

RECOGNITION

The lesser grain borer is 1/8", 2-3mm, in length. It is red-brown to black-brown, and slim. The hood shaped rounded neck shield extends beyond the head; the spots on the shield gradually become smaller towards the rear. The larvae are white and have brown head capsules.

BIOLOGY

The female lays eggs in clusters of 2 to about 30 as she bores into grain. Most of the larvae chew into kernels and complete their development there. The larvae are mobile while young, immobile while older and are concealed in grain or flour. Both the larvae and adults produce a large amount of frass or waste. Larval fecal pellets are pushed out of the kernel and large amounts can accumulate in the grain. The adults feed on grain, are strong fliers, and are long lived. The life cycle can be completed in 25 days at 93F at 70% R.H.

