### Problem
The leaves of my rhododendrons are being eaten.

### Description (June/July)
Notches are appearing on the leaves.

### Questions and Answers

**Question:** Where are the plants located in your yard? What is your soil type?
**Answer:** They are all in a shady or partly shaded areas that are close to the house. My soil is just Willamette Valley clay.

**Question:** What method of irrigation do you use on the plants?
**Answer:** They get watered with the lawn.

**Question:** Is there any damage on other parts of the plants? (Bark, roots or lower stems)
**Answer:** I do see some kind of chewing on the lower stems.

**Question:** Have you seen any insects or mites on the plants?
**Answer:** I went out with a light one night and saw some black insects.

### Reference(s)
- PNW Insect Management Handbook
- Success with Rhododendrons and Azaleas by H. Edward Reiley, [http://www.rhododendron.org/v54n4p195.htm](http://www.rhododendron.org/v54n4p195.htm)

### Diagnosis
**Weevils**—strawberry root weevil, black vine weevil, obscure root weevil: Root weevil emerge as adults in mid-summer and begin to feed on plant foliage and begin to lay eggs 3-4 weeks later. As larvae emerge, they burrow into soil to feed on roots.

### Recommendations
**Cultural:**
- Add parasitic nematodes in soil below to limit larvae. Add when temps. are above 52 degrees.
- crop rotation (if possible)
- handpick with flashlight at night
- trim leaves touching ground to limit access

**Mechanical:** Use sticky Tanglefoot-type product to trap weevils before they can crawl up to notch leaves.

**Chemical:** Refer to PNW Insect Management Handbook. Treatments are available only for adult insect with foliar applications.