Children's Citrus Activity: Diaprepes Root Weevil[1]

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Diaprepes weevils are a type of beetle that feeds on citrus trees and some decorative plants. These beetles came to Florida in the 1960s from the Caribbean. The larvae (babies/kids) feed underground on roots. Larvae are white and up to one inch long, and they have no legs. As larvae, their main job is to eat so they can develop into adults and leave their underground home.

Figure 1. *Diaprepes* larva

Figure 2. *Diaprepes* adult

Adult diaprepes weevils feed on plant leaves. On its own, one beetle will only eat a small part of the leaf, but if a lot of adults feed on the same plant, they can cause a lot of damage. This damage can be expensive to prevent and control.

Figure 3. Feeding damage by adult larva *Diaprepes*.
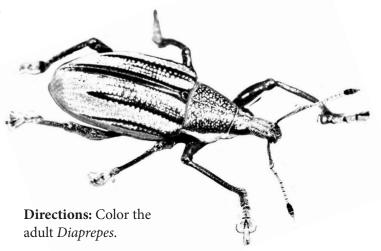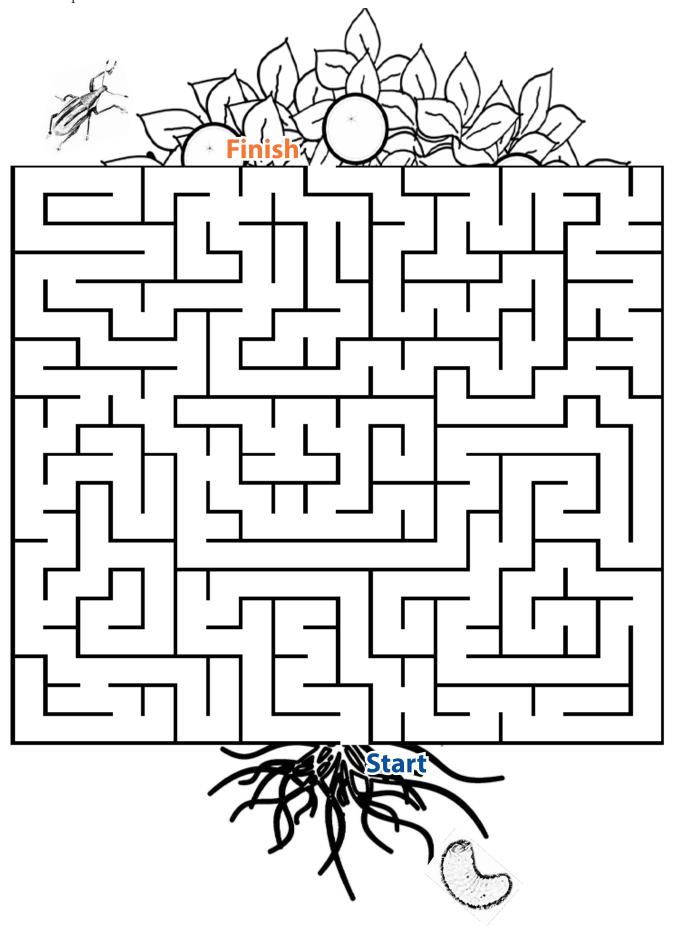

Directions: Color the adult *Diaprepes*.

Photo Credit: L. Buss, UF/IFAS; R. Stewart, FDACS; UF; Artwork Credit: Katherine M. Snyder, UF/IFAS CREC, Tonya Weeks, UF/IFAS CREC

Directions: Help the larva exit the soil as an adult.

Finish

Start