



CAES

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BLACK MAIZE BEETLE (*Heteronychus arator*)

The Black Maize Beetle is an invasive beetle originating from Africa and Oceania, including Australia and New Zealand. There have not been any interceptions of the Black Maize Beetle in the United States however there are many regions that may be suitable for establishment of *H. arator*, including hardiness zones 7-11 which coincides with the climate in Australia. The primary hosts include corn, eucalyptus, grape and potato.

The adult is the main source of damage as they feed on stems just below the ground surface, whereas the larvae, which are ground-dwelling, damage the underground portions of the plant including the roots. The Black Maize Beetle can be particularly damaging to the turf grass industry as well as underground crops such as potato.

Adults are shiny black to reddish-brown, averaging about 12-15 mm in length. Females lay small, white oval eggs singly at soil depth and hatch within 20 days. Larvae resemble white grubs.

The primary trapping method for the Black Maize Beetle is general visual inspection.

