

Khapra beetle

Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*) is one of the world's worst stored grain product pests.



Where can the Khapra beetle be found?

Khapra beetle originated in India and has since been found in a number of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian and African countries.

The Khapra beetle prefers hot, dry conditions and is often found in grain and food stores, in malhouses, seed processing plants, fodder production plants, dried milk factories, stores of packing materials (used or unused sacks, bags, crates) and kitchen pantries.

Khapra beetle has not yet become established in Australia although there was small outbreak of this pest in Perth last year.

Why is the Khapra beetle considered a pest?

It is the larvae of the Khapra Beetle that cause so much damage. They are voracious eaters and will feed on grains, seeds as well as animal and vegetable products.

The beetle is particularly hard to control because larvae can survive without food for several years and spend most of their time in crevices and other shelters, making them difficult to spot and hard to control with chemical treatments (fumigation is the only reliable treatment currently available).



The United States spent \$15 million to eradicate Khapra beetle after a pest outbreak in 1953 in California.

What's the risk to Australia?

Khapra beetles are easily transported with agricultural products in shipping containers, vessels or vehicles, even in shipments of canned products, rubber and clothing. Their ability to survive without food enables them to be carried around the world. Cargo and products from countries with Khapra beetle require careful inspection by Quarantine officers.

Australia provides an ideal environment for this pest, and its establishment here would make grain exports considerably more expensive because many countries require fumigation against Khapra beetle. Domestic grain and high-risk products would also be more expensive because of to treatment costs — and accurate identification of Khapra beetle would be very difficult because there are many almost identical species that are native to Australia.

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