

## Sap Beetles

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Sap beetles (Fig. 1) belonging to the family Nitidulidae are variable in characteristics. The adult beetles are usually oval though sometimes elongated, often dark and shiny, and generally less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. Others measure less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in length. Some of these beetles have short wing covers on their backs, exposing part of the upper abdomen. Larvae are often light-colored and may move quite fast.

Sap beetles are commonly associated with fermenting products, such as damaged and decaying fruit and sap. Some kinds of sap beetles associate with fungi, and others reside in flowers. Some are quite common under loose bark from stumps. Still other sap beetles are found in other situations.

### Management

Damaged, decaying fruit should be properly disposed of, either in the garbage or compost. Fruit being dried for storage should be properly handled and closely observed.

Cleanliness and proper disposal of infested items may help control infestations of other kinds of sap beetles as well.



**Fig. 1. The dusky sap beetle, a pest of sweet corn.  
By K. Grey.**