

Palm Weevil Bucket Trap – Change Lures and Bait Every 4 Weeks

2 gallon paint bucket from Home Depot.
Lids are sold separately
<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Argee-2-gal-White-Pail-RG502-10/204081114>

2 inch diameter hole cut with a hole saw that
attaches to a drill. Available at Home Depot
<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Milwaukee-2-in-Hole-Dozer-Hole-Saw-with-Arbor-49-56-9667/202327737>

Burlap wrap to help weevils climb bucket to reach
holes. Elmers glue will work for attaching burlap.
Available in the garden section at Home Depot
<http://www.homedepot.com/p/Easy-Gardener-80-in-x-80-in-Natural-Burlap-Landscape-Fabric-3180/203204386>



Wire “hook” that passes through bucket lid from which the aggregation pheromone and ethyl acetate synergist is attached

Bottle with ethyl acetate (nail polish remover) and hanging behind this and out of view is the vial with the commercially available aggregation pheromone (<https://www.iscotech.com/>)

I place the “bait” inside a yoghurt pot. Lid is perforated to let fermentation odors out. Cover holes with insect screen to stop weevils entering bait container. For bait I’ve used cut pineapple chunks in a can or dates. I tip all of the pineapple contents into the pot. With dates (use ~ 15) or pineapple chunks fill pot $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water.

For preservative I use car antifreeze, but you can dilute down to 50% food grade polyethylene glycol. This depends on if you want specimens for DNA work. Alternatively, you can dump bait and water into the bucket trap and weevils will fall in drown and rot. The stink is strong!

Setting up Traps

Step ladder for climbing to branches to hang traps

Water for adding to bait. Add yeast to speed up bait fermentation

Buckets ready to be loaded with pheromone/synergist and bait

Trap supplies in bags/back packs

Antifreeze preservative

Aggregation pheromone suspended from bucket lid

Yoghurt pots with perforated lids. Lids have screen mesh over holes to keep weevils out



Deploy trap > 1 m above ground to keep vertebrates (e.g., raccoons) out of trap. Attach wire to bucket handle to tie onto branch to reduce risk of bucket drop/trap loss. If rats are a problem use wire to “dangle” trap ~18 inches below branch to make access difficult for rats. Hang traps in shady areas (bait/pheromone lasts longer), preferably away from palms (weevils may go to palm after being attracted to trap)



Bait in yoghurt pot lasts about 3-4 weeks in shade before it needs servicing. I check traps every 4 weeks and bait is sub-optimal by this time and some weevils may start to rot even in the antifreeze preservative

Sth American palm weevils in trap – You'll get some by-catch; noctuid moths and fig beetles are attracted to fermenting bait

