

## Click Beetle/Wireworms

*Agriotes lineatus* and *A. obscurus*

Native of Europe, Click Beetles were first introduced to Washington in 1997. The Click Beetle itself doesn't pose a significant threat however, Wireworms, their larval stage, can wreak havoc on seeds, plant roots and underground plant parts. Click Beetles are **not yet present in Rhode Island.**



### Identifying Features:

Adults are slender with elongated bodies usually black, brown or gray in color. When these beetles are turned upside down, they right themselves by arching their back and snapping their body quickly, thus popping them into the air and making a clicking sound. **The presence of Click Beetles can indicate the existence of local Wireworm populations.**

Adults do not cause damage to crops. **Wireworms, the larvae of Click Beetles, cause crop damage.** Wireworms are brownish-yellow in color with dark heads and hard, smooth bodies. Behind their head are three leg segments and a tapered body. Larvae may take up to three years to pupate and become adults.

With a broad host range, Wireworms can attack strawberries, legumes, ornamentals, potatoes and most vegetable crops.



### Damage:

- Larvae feed on plant roots and organic material.
- Wireworms will penetrate deeply into seeds and underground stems of seedlings.
- Wireworms will bore tunnels up to two inches deep in developing roots, tubers or bulbs.