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## *Sawtooth grain beetle*

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful pest management.*

### ***Biology***

The sawtoothed grain beetle and its look-alike relative, the merchant grain beetle, are slender, flattened, reddish-brown beetles that measure about 1/8 inch in length. They exhibit saw-like teeth along the edge of the prothorax (shoulder area). These beetles feed on a wide variety of foods. While some come in from outdoors, most come in on purchased food, particularly dry pet food. These beetles can enter a home in large and disturbing numbers to feed on food, such as bird seed or pet food, which mice or other rodents have stored in wall voids.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Don't store excess foodstuffs, such as grains, cereals, baking mixes, etc., for long periods of time.
- ~ If grain beetles become apparent, locate the food source immediately and get rid of it. Then do a thorough inspection of all other stored foods.
- ~ Pests can get into most cardboard packaging, so store foodstuffs in tightly-sealed containers if they are not going to be used in the near future.
- ~ Keep dry pet foods away from the general pantry area and in a tightly-sealed container.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

None recommended.

*Sawtooth grain beetle*

*Images*



~ Caption: Sawtooth grain beetle  
~ Photo by: Ken Gray