

# Regulated pests of agave

Agave is very important for Mexico since its cultivation and industry represent an important source of income for producers, industrialists and traders of this agricultural product. However, in recent years, this crop has been affected by a pest called 'agave weevil' among other diseases caused by pathogens, which result in damages of economic importance for the plantations.

The agave weevil is a beetle that considerably affects the plant in all of its development stages. In adulthood, it is black and feeds on the broad leaves by piercing them. In the case of female weevils, they can deposit from 25 to 50 eggs. Larvae consume the soft tissues inside the agave, destroying it completely.

The pathogens that attack this crop are: *Fusarium oxysporum* and *F. moniliforme*, species of fungi that colonize and block the ducts of the plant causing leaf wilting, yellowing and ultimately the plant's death. *Cercospora agavicola*; fungus that disperses in the broad leaves; and the *Pectobacterium carotovora* bacteria. It is considered very aggressive, causing the death of the broad leaves and completely rotting the plant.

In order to reduce the levels of infestation of the agave weevil and regulated diseases since 2013, the *National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality* (SENASICA) implemented a campaign to fight regulated pests of the agave in the states comprising the Zone of Tequila Denomination of

Origin (Jalisco, Guanajuato, Michoacán, Nayarit and Tamaulipas).