



PEA WEEVIL – PEA STRAW

MPI and pea growers are working to get rid of a pest insect ‘pea weevil’ which has been found on a small number of Wairarapa farms.

To achieve this, a complete ban on growing peas for the next two seasons has been imposed. Full information about this is at www.mpi.govt.nz/alerts

These weevils can seriously damage pea crops and home-grown peas. Their larvae only eat growing peas, so taking all peas out of the ground in Wairarapa for a couple of seasons will see them die out.

In addition to the restrictions on pea planting and growing, there are also controls on moving pea material. This includes pea straw. In the next two years, Wairarapa growers will not be supplying pea straw to their regular customers.

Home gardeners are being told that they can still apply any pea straw they have in their possession. So if you have straw still on hand, you can use it. However, it is vital that you check areas mulched with pea straw for the emergence of any pea seedlings. Remove these and either compost or put out with your household rubbish for collection.

As things progress, pea straw won't be available in the Wairarapa. We recommend alternative mulches such as barley straw and lucerne straw. Check with your regular supplier or garden centre.

Thanks for your help in this. It's important to ultimately restore the livelihoods of Wairarapa pea growers and the future of home-grown peas.

