

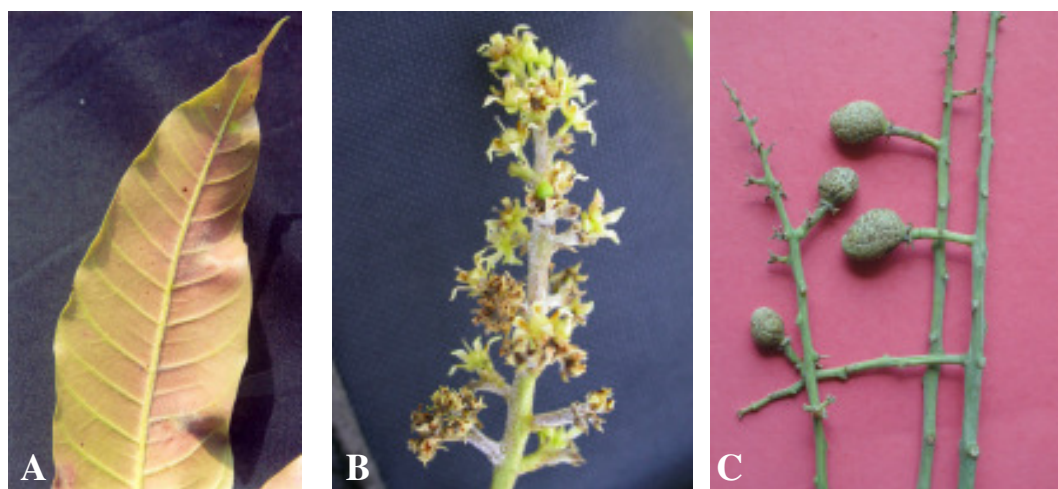


केन्द्रीय उपोष्ण बागवानी संस्थान
रहमानखेड़ा, पो. काकोरी, लखनऊ-227 107 उ.प्र. (भारत)
Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture
Rehmankhhera, PO Kakori, Lucknow-227 107 U.P. (India).



PRESS RELEASE

Management of Powdery Mildew of mango



Powdery mildew symptoms on (A) Leaves (B) Inflorescence and (C)Fruits

Powdery mildew, caused by fungus *Oidium mangifere*, is an important and serious disease of mango. In cases of severe infection of the disease more than 50 per cent crop loss may occur. The disease is expected to appear from the first week of February to the third week of March. The disease affects the inflorescence, stalk of the inflorescence, new leaves and young fruits. The characteristic symptom of the disease is the appearance of white superficial powdery growth of the fungus on the above mentioned plant parts having millions of conidia borne in chain on conidiophores. The disease spreads through airborne conidia. The young leaves are attacked by the fungus when their colour changes from purple brown to light green and disease appears on

both sides of the leaves as small greyish patches, however the symptoms are generally more conspicuous on the lower surface of the leaves. The most devastating phase of the disease is when inflorescence stage is attacked by the fungus resulting into shedding of flowers. The affected flowers fail to open and fall leading to serious crop loss. Young fruits upon infection get covered entirely by the white mildew growth. As disease progresses the epidermis of the infected fruits cracks and corky tissues develop. Such fruits may remain on the tree until they reach up to pea size and then drop. The disease spreads fast when the maximum temperature reaches around 35⁰C, minimum temperature between 15 -17⁰C, relative humidity between 50 – 60 per cent and wind speed is 2 -5 kmph. These conditions usually prevail in the northern parts of the country around middle of March.

How to manage powdery mildew ?

The disease can be managed initially by reducing the load of primary inoculum by pruning the diseased leaves and malformed panicles. In order to control powdery mildew, three sprays of fungicides are recommended. The first spray comprising of wettable sulphur (0.2%, i.e., 2g per litre of water) should be done when the panicles are 8 -10 cm in size as a preventive spray. The second spray of dinocap (0.1%, i.e., 1ml per litre of water) should be undertaken after 10 – 15 days of the first spray. Need based third spray of tridemorph (0.1%, i.e., 1ml per litre of water) should be carried out after 10 -15 days of the second spray. If the incidence of powdery mildew is low to moderate wettable sulphur can be used in all the three sprays. The fungicide spray should be avoided at the time of full bloom of flowers. Although three sprays schedule is recommended for the management of the disease, intelligent management with one or two sprays is possible with critical period identified for the spread of the disease.

For further information contact

**Director, Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, P.O. Kakori,
Lucknow – 227107 or call subject matter expert on every Friday between 10.30 am to 4.00
pm on phone – in - live (Tel : 0522-2841082, 2841023)**