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PRESS RELEASE

Management of Mango Hopper



Fig.1 Infestation of mango hopper on leaf and fruit

Hopper is a serious pest of mango which may cause up to 50 per cent crop loss in cases of severe infestation. They lay egg singly on floral shoots, buds and tender leaves which hatch in a week. After hatching, large number of nymphs and adults puncture and suck the sap of tender parts such as panicles, inflorescence, leaves and fruits, thereby reducing the vigour of the plants and particularly destroying inflorescence and causing fruit drop. Heavy puncturing and continuous draining of the sap causes curling and drying of infested tissues. They also damage the crop by excreting a sweet sticky substance which

facilitates the development of sooty mould, a fungus, which affects photosynthesis activities of leaf. A low population of hoppers is normally recorded in mango orchards throughout the year but it peaks up during February to April and June to August.

- Pest has already emerged in some orchards and had started feeding on panicles. In the present situation when the temperature is increasing there is a possibility of buildup of hopper population. Farmers are advised to spray imidacloprid (0.005%, 0.3 ml per liter of water) along with sticker (0.05%) immediately.
- Synthetic pyrethroids such as cypermethrin, permethrin, fenvalerate and deltamethrin should not be sprayed in mango as they are harmful to human health.
- Orchardists are advised not to spray if more than 50 per cent flowering has already occurred because it will affect the pollinator activity leading to low fruit set.
- Insecticides can be mixed with fungicides for management of both powdery mildew as well as hopper.

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)