PRESS RELEASE

Management of Mango Leaf Webber

Lucknow, 27-07-2014: Mango leaf Webber (Orthaga euadrusalis Walker) has become a serious pest of mango in Northern India of late. The pest activity in the mango orchards start in the months of July and it remain active up to the December. The pest completes several overlapping generations from July to December on mango trees. Three distinct peaks can be observed in first fortnight of August, September and October. The pest's activity remains at high level from September to December. After second fortnight of December the larval population vanish from the orchards and no further infestation is noticed in the mango orchards. The most active period of the pest is from August to December. Leaf Webber incidence now has already started in mango orchards of Malihabad which is expected to increase further due to favourable weather conditions that prevail during rainy season. The incidence may further increase this year as in the previous year as proper pest management practices were not followed by many orchardists. Timely management of this insect pest is crucial to save the mango crop in the coming year. Immediately after the harvest of mango fruits, management of this pest is one of the most important orchard operations, required to be adopted by the orchardists.

The female Leaf Webber moth lays eggs on mango leaves, which hatch in a week's time. First instars larvae feed on leaves by scrapping the epidermal surface and from second instars onwards larvae start webbing the leaves and feed on entire leaves leaving behind the midrib and veins. There are five larval instars and larval period vary between 15 to 30 days depending upon weather conditions. After last instar the larva pupates in webs, as well as it also fall to the ground with jerk of its own and pupates in soil. The pupal period varies from 5-15 days, depending upon temperature. Densely planted orchards have higher infestation rates than the normal spaced and canopy managed orchards.

Management

- Pruning of infested shoots and burning them.
- Removal of leaf webs by leaf web removing device developed by CISH, Lucknow and burning them.
- Spray of lambdacyhalothrin 5 EC (2 ml / lit of water) manages the pest.
- If the infestation persists, second spray after 15-20 days of first spray either with of lambdacyhalothrin 5 EC (2 ml / lit of water) or quinolphos 25 EC (1.5 ml / lit of water) needs to be carried out.
Mango Leaf webber Infested shoots

For further details, please contact Director, Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, PO Kakori, Lucknow or scientists of the Institute over Institute’s Media Resource Centre’s phone-in-live facility on telephone number 0522-2841082 on every Friday between 10:30 am and 4:00 pm.

Issued in public interest

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