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Press Release / Advisory

Management of Mango Mealy Bug

Mango mealy bug (*Drosicha mangiferae*) is one of the major pests of mango in the states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi (Fig.1). The insect has one generation life cycle. The eggs are laid in soil around tree trunk. There is great variation in the time of hatching of eggs (December to January) in different states due to variation in soil conditions. First instar nymphs are found from January to third week of March. Third instar females are found from March to middle of April. Fertilized females start migrating from third week of April to May. Generally, the females migrate through main stem but some of them also fall on the ground directly from the infested panicles and lay eggs in the soil around tree trunk. The eggs remain in suspended developmental stage in soil from May to December. Just after hatching, the minute newly hatched pink to brown coloured nymphs crawl up the tree. Nymphs and adult females suck the sap from tender leaves, shoots and inflorescence. Excess removal of sap by the insect from infested parts leads to wilting and thereby affect fruit setting. The insect also secretes honeydew over which sooty mould develops as a result of which leaves and inflorescence become shiny black and sticky.

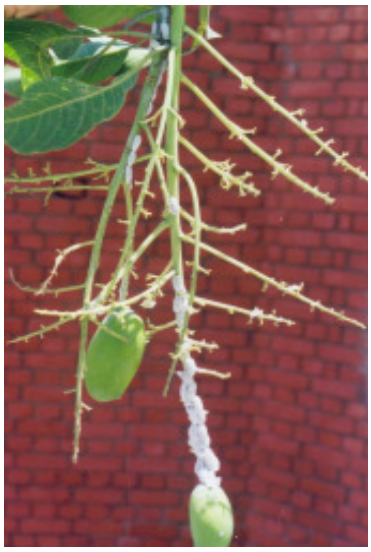

Fig.1. Mealy bug infestation

How to manage mealy bugs ?

Eco-friendly approach

Mango mealy bugs could be managed by banding of tree trunks with polythene sheet (400 gauge, 30 cm wide) as shown in Fig.2 at a height of about 30 cm from the ground level and grease should be applied at the lower edge of band during the 3rd/4th week of December. This will prevent pink to brown coloured nymphs crawling up the tree.

Fig.2. Polythene banding of tree trunk

Chemical approach

- Tree trunk should be mounted with raked soil up to a height of 6 -8" from the ground level. This should be followed by application of 1.5 per cent chlorpyriphos dust @ 250 g/ tree around tree trunk (Fig. 3) preferably in 3rd/4th week of December. If it is not undertaken in December, it should be done in 1st week of January.

Fig . 3. Raising of soil for application of chlorpyriphos dust

- If nymphs have already started ascending the trees, spray carbosulfan (0.05%, 25 EC, @ 2 ml/liter of water) or dimethoate (0.06%, 30 EC @ 2 ml/liter of water) during January- March as per requirements.

For further details, please contact **Director, Central institute for Subtropical Horticulture, Rehmankhera, PO Kakori, Lucknow** or scientists of the Institute may also be contacted 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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