

Lemongrass

Pests

Stem Boring Caterpillar

The most important is the species of *Chilotrea* infecting lemongrass. The caterpillar is white in colour with a black head and black spots on the body. It bores into the stem and remains there, feeding on the shoot. It is usually found at the bottom of the stem. As the grass is cut a few centimeters above the ground, the caterpillar, which is lodged lower down, is not affected.

The first symptom of the attack is the drying up of the central leaf. Subsequently, the whole shoot dies, resulting in a significant reduction in the yield of the grass.

Control measures are : (i) The dry stubbles are set on fire during the off-season in summer. The caterpillars lurking inside the stubbles are thus destroyed. (ii) The affected shoots are pulled out and destroyed. (iii) When attacks are serious, a spray of Folidol E 605 is used. Instruction for spray, etc, should be followed as prescribed by the manufacturer.

Nematodes (*Tylenchorhynchus vulgaris*, *Rotylenchulus reniformis*, *Helicotylenchus* spp. and *Pratylenchus* spp.)

Nematodes have also been found to infect the grass. They can be effectively controlled by soil application of Fenamiphos @11.2kg/ha.