

Patchouli

Pests

Root-knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne Incognita*)

The nematode is an obligate parasite which enters into the root by thrust with the mouth spear, usually in the region of cell elongation or at the base of lateral roots. They reach cortex, multiply and cause galling which is commonly called as root-knot. The diameter of the knots varies from 0.2 cm to 5.0 cm. Heavily infected plants show stunting of top growth and wilting. Initially it will be difficult to differentiate between the infested and healthy plants. Typical symptoms of an infested plant become apparent only after 8 months. In case of severe attack the crop dwindles and the whole stand may perish during the next 2 or 3 months.

The plot should be treated with a proper nematicide. Furadan @ 20 kg / ha (3% a.i.) or Dasanit 150 kg /ha (5% a.i.) are found to be very effective. First dose of the nematicide should be given as a pre-planting treatment and the second dose can be given one year after transplanting as pocket application to the plants. In order to get a good crop of patchouli in nematode-infested soil, it is desirable to take a crop of citronella or other nematode-resistant crop for next few years before planting patchouli.

Nursery should be raised from healthy mother stock under nematode-free conditions. Application of farmyard manure should be avoided