

Lemongrass

Diseases

Long Smut (*Tolyposporium Christensenii*)

All the flowers in the inflorescence are transformed into, slender, tubular to conical cream-coloured sori. These sori flake off at maturity, starting from the tip and hang in shreds.

Prolific spraying of Dithane Z-78 @0.2% just before flower initiation and treating the seeds with Cersan (0.2%) or Emisan-6@ 1g/kg of seed before sowing effectively controls the disease.

Red Leaf Spot (*Colletotrichum Graminicola*)

The symptoms are in the form of brown spots with concentric rings in the centre appearing on the lower surface of the leaves. The spots may be formed on leaf sheaths and midrib. Later the spots merge to form bigger patches and the affected leaves dry away.

Control : two sprays of Bavistin 0.1% just after the appearance of the disease at an interval of 20 days or three sprays of Dithane M-45 (0.2%) at an interval of 10-12 days.

Leaf Blight (*Curvularia Andropogonis*)

The disease appears in the form of minute, circular, reddish brown spots mostly on the margins and tip of the leaves which merge to form elongated reddish brown necrotic lesions resulting in premature drying of leaves, older leaves are more susceptible to infection.

Control : Spray Dithane Z-78 (0.2%) with an interval of 10-12 days or 0.3% Copper oxychloride.

Rust (*Puccinia Nakarishikii*)

The symptoms are in the form of Discrete, linear brown uredinia appear on the lower surface of the leaves associated with chlorotic streaks.

Control : the disease is controlled by spraying Dithane Z78 (0.2%) or Copper oxychloride (0.3%) or Plantavax (0.1%) at an interval of 10-12 days.

Little Leaf or Grassy Shoot (*Balansia Sclerotica*)

The characteristic symptoms are in the form of stunting and little leaf formation in place of normal inflorescence.

Control : Spraying Dithane Z-78 (0.3%) just before flowering stage at an interval of 10-12 days helps to reduce the disease incidence. Fresh seedlings should be used for plantation and crop rotation (Khan A.N.A. et. al. Diseases of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants and their Management, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UAS, GKVK, Bangalore).