

Pineapple

Pests

Mealy Bug (*Pseudococcus brevipes*):

The rapid spread of this malady in the field is largely due to the feeding habit of bugs. Symptoms first appear on roots which cease to grow, eventually leading to collapse of tissues. The most predominant symptom is wilting of leaves, commencing from leaf tips. Reddish-yellow colour develops in the wilting areas. Finally the plants rot and develop decaying suckers. Fruits developed are undersized. Ants of several species act as carriers of mealy bugs.

Control : Application of Phorate granules @ 1.75 kg/a.i /ha at 100 days after planting controls mealy bugs (IIHR, Bangalore). This insecticide should not be applied at the time of flowering and fruiting because of its systemic nature. Indirect control of mealy bugs can be achieved by treating soil with either Chlordane (27.5 kg/ha) or Heptachlor (22.5 kg/ha) to check carrier ants.

Nematodes (*Meloidogyne sp.*):

During low population of nematodes there are no visible symptoms however, at a later plant growth is restricted and finally leaves become chlorotic.

Control : Healthy plant material should be used for new plantings. The common method followed to control nematodes is soil fumigation with Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) at 100 kg/ha or EDB 15 at 250 to 350 litres/ ha, 2-3 weeks before planting depending upon the severity of infection. Plants soaked in 1,500 ppm Nematicur solution and treated with 0.2 g/plant every 2 months were found free from nematodes.