

Major Pest of Different Plants (Polyphagous) in Vegetables : Armyworm

Common Name : Armyworm

Scientific Name : *Spodoptera litura*

Biology of Pest

Adult stage : Brown with the front wings resembling a velvet pattern with mixture of yellowish, black spots and swollen blue. The hind wing is white with slightly black edge.

Eggs : Laid in groups on the top of the leaf. It is greenish and wrap up with two thorn at the edge and covered with soil cocoon.

Larva (Caterpillar) : Brownish with black spots at the dorsal part. It can grow up to 6mm in length.

Pupa/Stage : Pupation takes place in the soil in an earthen cell, and the adult emerges after 6-7 days.



Damage

The first instar larvae feed on the leaf underside in group. They will then become scattered at the second instar stage. Obvious symptom of leaf damage can be noticed especially at the edges.

Control

Spray with recommended insecticides. Alternative planting technique such as protective cultivation or hydroponic are advised when planting in commercial scale.

Recommended Insecticides

TYPE OF INSECTICIDES	SPRAYING INTERVAL/POST HARVEST INTERVAL	RATE PER LITRE OF WATER
Bacillus thuringiensis	7 days / 7 days	0.6 - 1.1 gm
Ripcord 505 5.6% EC	3-7 days / 3 days	1.3 - 3.0 ml
Decis 1.4% EC	3-7 days / 3 days	0.8 - 2.2 ml
Sumicidin 3.0% EC	3 days / 3 days	1.5 ml