

Major Pest In Crusifer : Diamond Black Moth



Common Name : Diamond Back Moth

Scientific Name : *Plutella xylostella*

Biology of Pest

Adult stage : The adult is a small, grey moth with a wingspan of about 15mm. There are three pale triangular marks along the hind margin of each forewing and when the wings are closed these marks form a diamond pattern.



Eggs : Yellowish with oval shape. The eggs are stuck to the upper surface at a leaf either singly or in very small groups.

Larva (Caterpillar) : Green with brownish head. When disturb, the body will make a coil like "U".

Pupa Stage : Pupation takes place inside a gauze like silken cocoon, which is stuck to the underside of a leaf. The pupa is green and will later change into yellowish brown.

Damage

Newly hatched caterpillar crawl to the underside of the leaf, the epidermis and during the first instar they mine in the leaf tissue. The three last instars feed on the underside of the leaf making 'windows' and they are always found hanging from the leaf before pupating.

Control

Avoid planting the same crusifer at the same area continuously. Spray with recommended insecticide from nursery stage onward. When planting in a big scale, it is suggested to use protected cultivation or hydroponics.

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
Ambush 10 EC	7 days / 7 days	1.1 - 2 ml