EFFECTS OF BORDER CROPS ON INSECT PESTS OF CABBAGE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DIAMONDBACK MOTH

By

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Abstract.

A study was carried out in the Agricultural farm of the Eastern University of Sri Lanka to assess the efficiency of Tomato, Chrysanthemum and Mustard as border crops on the management of Diamondback Moth (DBM) of cabbage.

Tomato, Chrysanthemum and Mustard crops were selected as border crops. Twenty plots were provided with five replicates. Each of them was bordered with tomato, chrysanthemum and mustard respectively. Another five plots were bordered with cabbage alone (control). In each plot three rows of cabbage were planted as main crop. The number of DBM larvae, pupae and infested leaves of cabbage were counted. Other insect pests on cabbage and border crops were also observed. During this study cabbage was raised without insecticidal application.

The infestation of DBM on cabbage bordered with tomato and mustard was lower than that of crops bordered with chrysanthemum and control. It suggests that tomato and mustard are effective in preventing DBM attack.

However, infestation of Bagrada bugs and aphids was higher on mustard bordered cabbage. This indicates that this crop may act as an attractant for these two pests.

Mealy bugs, white flies and spiders were observed in tomato. In chrysanthemum only ladybird beetle was observed.

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