

Mite Pests of Cotton

K Natarajan

Mites are of minor importance on cotton and they seldom cause heavy damage.

Red Spider Mite: Tetranychus Cinnabarinus (Tetranychide Acarira)

Cotton in the early stage as well as at the late stage is attacked by this mite. Use of synthetic pyreoid induces resurgence of red spider mite. They are generally found on the undersurface of leaves wire fine webbings. During heavy infestation they may be found all over the leaf surfaces. Mites puncture the leaf tissue and the oozing plant sap is sucked. Removal of plant sap with chlorophyll and other plant pigments results in the characterizing blocking with reddish bronze discoloration of leaves. Severe infestation leads to pre mature defoliation of leaves.

Wolly Mite : Aceria gossypii

This mite lives under the tissues of the epidermis of the leaf and causes irritation due to which a growth of dense whitish hair arises on both the surface of leaf. The attacked leaves curl and become hard and crisp. This is a major problem in heraceum cotton and perennial cotton. Heavy injury leads to shedding of leaves and bolls.

Yellow Mite / Broad Mite: Poly phagotarsonemus latus (Tarsonemidal Acarina)

Yellow mite is an occasional pest of cotton in all the cotton growing areas. It is a polyphgous pest nymphs and adults remain on the under surface of both terminal leaves and suck the sap. Due to the feeding leaves turn upward, size get reduced become brittle and the plant become stunted. Squares and young bolls are shed. Under severe infestation seed cotton yield were reduced to 50 – 60%

Management

Application of Dicofol or wethabel sulphur reduces the mite incidence and further infestation.