

“A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle”

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Composting of waste and kitchen Garden preparation

On 26th may, as the part of various activities of centre for e- learning a class on composting of waste and kitchen garden preparation was carried out. The programme was jointly organised by the CEL the LAMPS and the Krishnapuram residents Association. About 200 housewives participated. Multimedia embedded presentations Video shows and demos on 'on source domestic waste recycling', prevention on rain borne diseases and terrace vegetable cultivation were the main attractions.

Red Palm weevil-A Threat To coconut Plantations

Most of us can now see crown toppling in coconut plantations. It is a serious problem seen throughout Kerala, and the reason behind this is the Red Palm Weevil. The weevil enters the crown through burrows and feeds on the soft tissue of the trunk. Burrows are made through the central shoot and all the internal matter are fed by the weevil which cause toppling down of the trunk. The infestation is mainly seen in seedlings and young palms (5 to 10 years). Farmers reports say that this pest attack is seen more in (D*T)and Kalpa-raksha varieties.



Red palm weevil

The debris of the coconut plantations are the main pruning grounds for the larvae of this weevils, so sanitary measures should be strictly followed within the plantations.

Symptoms

A few small holes with protruding chewed fibrous material and oozing out of a brown liquid from such holes indicate the early infestation by the pest. In the advanced stage of the attack the central shoot shows sign of wilting and a large mass of grubs, pupae and adults of the insect could be seen inside the trunk at the affected portion.

Integrated Management

- * The holes made by rhinoceros beetle should be plugged with a mixture of 250g neem cake and 250g sand.
- * Make a slanting hole on top of the plugged hole and pour carbaryl 20g@1l water.
- * Field sanitation
- * Discard and burn the toppled down palms
- * Plug the crevices and holes in the palms with a mixture of carbaryl and sand.



Red palm Weevil Attack

Crucifer's not just vegetables!

Cabbage and Radish are the 2 unique members belonging to crucifer family. They have properties responsible for pest control, disease control and weed control. Many volatile chemical constituents are seen in leaf, stem and root of these plants. These constituents destroy the pathogens and pests attacking the plants, this process is called bio fumigation. Crops like Cabbage, mustard, knol-khol and Radish are best among them showing above property. Glucosinolate is main chemical constituent responsible for bio fumigation.



cruciferous vegetables

Glucosinolate break down into a harmful chemical compound isothiocyanate which is responsible for its fumigation property. Chemical fungicides like mancozeb, zineb, vapam has the same chemical component isothiocyanate. Isothiocyanate is not only harmful against fungus but also to nematodes and several other pests. Cabbage and cauliflower remains are good for organic farming as well.

Many other sulphur compounds like dimethyl sulphide, dimethyl disulphide, methane thiol are also found in cabbage. The above compounds has volatilisation properties which are harmful against fungus, nematodes and several other pests. Crucifer family is also used for weed control. Glucoerusine and glucofenine are the chemical compounds responsible for weed control.

Seed vending machine at Thrissur KSRTC stand

Most of the people in urban city who are interested in homestead and terrace farming, are finding a problem to get good quality seeds for farming. But people of Thrissur and Trivandrum have found answers to their problems. Now the Thrissur people can get good quality seeds from the newly established vending machine in KSRTC bus stand. They need to just type in the keyboard of the machine and get seeds which they require. The conditions inside the vending machine are conducive for increasing the storage life of the seed. The seeds should be sown within 1 week itself. The complaints regarding the quality and germination of the seed can be given to the respective agencies. This sophisticated technology is introduced in Trivandrum Vellayani Agricultural College by KAU and State Horticulture Mission and in Thrissur by Seed Development Authority. Three seed vending machines were established in Vellayani Agricultural College by KAU.



Seed vending machine at Vellayani

Seeds of respective crops are available in individual seed packets says Research Coordinator L. Rajamani. Presently only vegetable seeds are available in the machine. Siga Company in Delhi manufactured this machine. Details of the seeds are also available.

A 10 rupees note should be kept at the respective place, then the machine sucks in the money. The details of selecting required seeds are then displayed on the screen of the machine. Then press the corresponding keys on the keyboards for getting the respective seed packets. Seeds are collected in the bottom of the machine from where the customers can collect them.