

INSECT PESTS OF GRAM

GRAM CUTWORM

T.N. *Agrotis flammatra*

Family: Noctuidae

Order: Lepidoptera

IDENTIFICATION

Eggs - yellowish white

Larvae - dark grey in color

Adult - grayish-brown or wheat colored insect



LIFE CYCLE

- This pest is active from October to April
- Eggs 900 - under surface of leaves, shoots, stems or in soil
- Hatching - 1 week during summer and in 2 weeks during winter.
- Larvae period - 4-7 weeks
- Pupation - 2 weeks in in the soil
- The life cycle is completed in 7-11 weeks
- 2 generations in a year

DAMAGE

- The caterpillar hides during the day and come out in the evening for damage
- Cutting down the young plants of gram, vegetables seedlings etc.
- Just above or slightly below the surface of soil.
- The cutaway gram seedlings in the field are indication of its attack

CONTROL

- Hand picking will be effective
- Using **poisoned bran mash**. The bait is placed in the infested field in the evening
- Light traps
- Clean cultivation should be done
- Biological control: *Braconids* sp.
- Insecticidal spray
 - Cypermethrin + monocrotophos EC 500 ml/acre
 - Endosulfan 35 EC @ 1000 ml/ha

GRAM POD CATERPILLAR

T.N. *Helicoverpa armigera*

Family: Noctuidae

Order: Lepidoptera

IDENTIFICATION

Moth - yellowish brown

Caterpillars - greenish with dark broken grey lines along the sides of the body

LIFE CYCLE

- Eggs 500-750/female on tender parts of the plants.
- Hatch – 1 week
- Larval period – 3 weeks
- Pupate in soil for 2 weeks
- 8 generations in a year

DAMAGE

- Larvae feed on the foliage when young and on the seed in later stages
- Single larva may destroy 30-40 pods

CONTROL

- Hand picking the caterpillars in the early stages of the attack
- *Ichneumonid* wasp, larval parasitoid
- Insecticidal spray
 - Profenofos EC 800 ml/acre
 - Lambda cyhalothrin EC 250 ml/acre.