

Advisory to Control Whiteflies in Potato

Whitefly is a common pest infesting cotton, potato and other vegetable crops. It created havoc on cotton crop in Malwa and Bhatinda regions of Punjab this year. There are fears that whitefly being a highly polyphagous pest, may also attack potato crop in the region. Therefore, considering the seriousness of this pest, the following integrated approaches as advisory to farmers to manage the whiteflies on potato are recommended:

Do's and Dont's

1. Avoid monoculture of any crop.
2. Put a strip of another crop which may act as a barrier crop/comparatively more liked crop which will act as reservoir for natural enemies.
3. Use recommended dose of fertilizers. Excess fertilizers invite more pests because of luxuriant growth.
4. Use of yellow sticky/water traps.
5. Use summer oil alone as well as in combination with insecticides such as imidacloprid.
6. Never use same chemical repeatedly. Use insecticides belonging to different groups having different mode of action/site of action. Spiromesifen should never be used more than twice on a crop in one season. Use this insecticide alone as it is not compatible with other chemicals.

Integrated management of whiteflies on potato

1. Seed treatment of well chitted potatoes with imidacloprid (200SL) @0.04% (4ml/10 L) for 10 minutes before planting.
2. Place yellow sticky traps (15x30cm²) just above the crop canopy @60 traps/ha at equidistance from each other when crop emergence starts till harvest.
3. Maintain field sanitation by removing and destroying weeds, alternate hosts, crop residues etc. that act as reservoir for whiteflies.
4. Foliar spray with imidacloprid 17.8SL @0.03% (3ml/10L) at the time of emergence of crop. Imidacloprid in combination with summer oil @2ml/L give better control.
5. Second spray with thiamethoxam 25WG @0.05% (5g/10L) after 15 days of crop emergence.
6. Spray spiromesifen 240SC @0.04% (4ml/10L) to kill immature stages like eggs and nymphs after 15 days once the adult kill is achieved with imidacloprid and thiamethoxam.