Keiferia lycopersicella *(Tomato Pinworm)*

The tomato pinworm is a small, micro lepidopteran moth that is often confused with closely related species, which have similar habits.



Life History

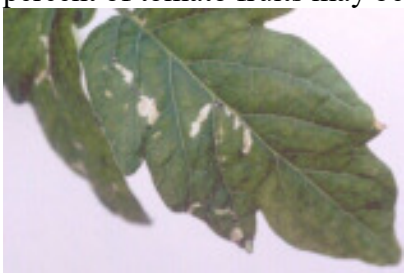
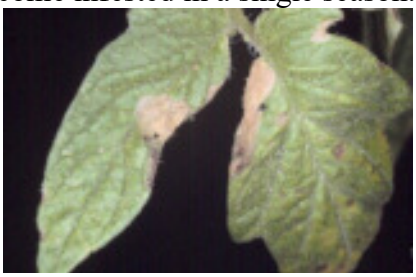
Eggs are laid singly or grouped in twos and threes on the host-plant foliage. The eggs are opaque to pale yellow when laid, but turn orange before hatching. The first instar larvae spin a tent of silk over themselves and tunnel into the leaf. Further feeding results in a blotch-like mine usually on the same leaf. The third and fourth larval stages feed from within tied leaves, folded portions of a leaf, or enter stems or fruits. Mature larvae abandon the host and form a loose pupal cell of sand grains near the soil surface. The adult emerges from this pupal cell two to four weeks later. Although the life cycle is lengthy, generations overlap and infestations quickly mount to damaging proportions. Seven or eight generations or more per year can be expected.

Hosts

Plants of the nightshade family, (Solanaceae), are the preferred hosts of pinworms. Tomato, is infested most commonly, but eggplant, and potatoes, also are attacked.

Nature of Damage

Damage to tomatoes results from the feeding of larvae on leaves, stems and fruit. Initial injury is slight and appears as a small leaf mine. Later injury includes leaf folding and leaf tying. Mature larvae may abandon the leaf and bore into the fruit leaving a small "pin" size hole. Secondary damage results when plant tissues become infected by pathogens and the plant dies or the fruit rots. Approximately 60 to 80 percent of tomato fruits may become infested in a single season.


Management

Several sanitary measures should be followed because infestations often result from shipment of pinworms in picking containers, crates, infested fruit or seedlings, and from populations perpetuated on plants left in fields after harvest or left in seed flats or compost heaps. The precautions include use of

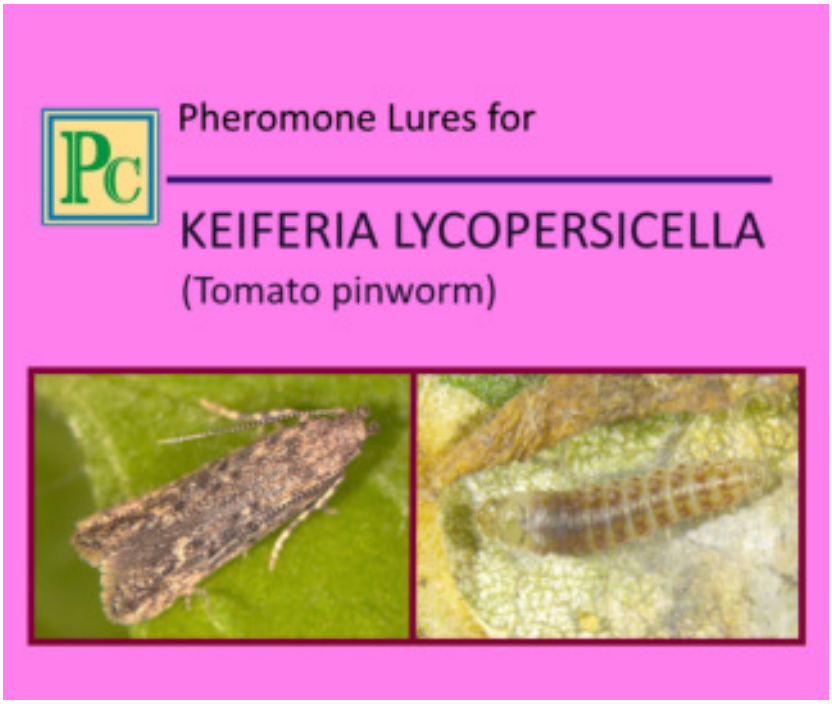
transplants that are free of eggs and larvae when set in the field, and the destruction of all plant debris in fields after harvest. Populations may be controlled early during the first or second larval stages with several recommended insecticides; however, third or fourth instars are protected by leaf folds or fruit, making the control of older infestations difficult. Consequently, chemical control is contingent upon frequent and accurate observations of fields for pinworm mines.

Use Pheromone Traps from 15 days crop stage @ 10 – 12 No's per acre to control pest at early stage.

Specifications of Pheromone Lures

1. Works for a minimum period of 30-45 days in field conditions (temperature ranging 35-42 degree Celsius).
2. Made of high quality silicone rubber for uniform release of pheromone in tube form.
3. Packed individually in aluminum foil pouches.
4. Have a shelf life of 18 months from manufacturing.

Always use Phero – Sensor ™ – SP / BP for best results.



Plot No.23, TSIIC Techpark, Road No.15, IDA Nacharam, Hyderabad – 500076, Telangana, India
Tel: +91-40-27177918, Cell: +91-94408 97918
E-mail: info@pheromonechemicals.in, Web: www.pheromonechemicals.in
e-shop: www.pheromonechemicals.org