



# INSECT PESTS OF CITRUS AND ITS MANAGEMENT



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## Insect pests of citrus and its management

Common Name	Nature of Damage	Management
Citrus caterpillar	Defoliation of the leaves by the larvae	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hand picking and destruction of egg mass.</li> <li>• Natural enemies- dragon fly, wasps, etc.</li> <li>• Spray of endosulfan 35EC @ 2ml/litre of water in severe infestation.</li> </ul>
Citrus leaf miner	The larvae makes serpentine mines underside of the leaves causing curling, wrinkling and arresting the growth of shoots.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pruning and destroy the infested branches during the inactive period of the plant. (Avoid pruning during active growth as it may induce further new flushes and thereby increase the pest population).</li> <li>• Natural enemies- green lace wing, preying mantids, spiders etc.</li> <li>• Monocrotophos @ 1.5ml/litre of water in severe infestation.</li> </ul>
Citrus trunk borer	Adults feed on the bark and the grubs bore into the trunk which ultimately kills the tree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soaking a swab of cotton with kerosene or petrol and plug with wet clay to kill the pest before emergence.</li> <li>• Shaking the trees during April to August and killing the dislodged adults also controls the pests.</li> <li>• Swab the tunnel with Monocrotophos @ 2ml/litre of water and plug it.</li> </ul>
Citrus psylla	Damage the buds and young leaves by sucking the sap leading to leaf distortion, curling and heavy deblossoming. Sooty mould develops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prune and destroy the affected parts of the plants.</li> <li>• Intermingling branches should be pruned to allow proper sunlight to reach through the canopy.</li> <li>• Conserve natural enemies- ladybird beetle, green lace wing, etc.</li> <li>• In severe infestation, spray Monocrotophos @ 2ml/litre of water at weekly intervals.</li> </ul>
Citrus aphid	Infest the lower surface of the leaves, tender shoots and the young fruits by sucking the sap leading to curling of infested twigs and leaves and develops sooty mould.	-do-
Citrus mealy bug	Suck the cell sap. Excretes honey dew leading to growth of sooty mould and restricts photosynthetic process.	-do-
Citrus scale	Suck the cell sap. Growth of sooty mould restricts photosynthetic process.	-do-
Citrus black fly	Both adult and nymph suck the cell sap. Excretes honey dew leading to growth of sooty mould and restricts photosynthetic process.	-do-
Fruit fly	Adult punctures the ripening fruits by penetrating its oviposition and lays egg. Larva on hatching feeds on the pulp inside. Initiates fungal and bacterial infections at the puncture leads to fruit-drop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destroy fallen fruits</li> <li>• Use light traps to collect the moths.</li> <li>• Smoking in the late evening in the orchard to repel the moths.</li> </ul>