

Barriers to prevent Andean potato weevil

Recognize the problem

The Andean potato weevil is also called "papakuru" or potato worm. Potatoes or tubers attacked by the worms have low prices in the market due to their low quality.

Background

The parents of the worm are the weevils or "qara saco", which walk into the farm during the night and cannot fly. The weevil cannot climb on smooth surfaces.

Management

To prevent the weevil from entering your farm, you can set plastic barriers 10 days before or at the time of sowing. Surround the whole planting area with plastic 40 cm in height. The plastic is supported by stakes of 1m height. The stakes are set at every 3 to 4 meters. Stretch a raffia strip at the upper edge of the plastic, stapling it. The bottom part of the plastic is buried by making a ditch with a shovel at a depth of 10 centimeters. Tamp it down soon to prevent the entrance of the adult weevil.

Sow three rows of mashua (*Tropaeolum tuberosum*) or lupin (*Lupinus mutabilis*) as repellent plants to confuse the weevils so that they do not reach the potato plants. In addition, you should set food baits. This involves placing potato plants with insecticide at different sites in the field to attract adult weevils that might be in the plot, so that they eat and die.

The white worm, or "papa khuru" is the offspring of the Andean weevil. (Photo by Flavia Félix)



Setting the barriers. The Andean potato weevil does not fly and cannot climb smooth plastic. (Photo by Flavia Félix)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Premnotrypes* spp.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Peru