

# Soybean Girdle Beetle

## Recognize the problem

The incidence of girdle beetles is observed at the seedling stage. The presence of 2 circular cuts on the branch or stem is a characteristic symptom. Larvae bore into the stem of soybean. The inside of the stem is eaten by the larvae, forming tunnels within the stem. The infected portion above the circular cut is unable to get any nutrition so it dries up. In the later stages of infestation, the plant is severed at about 15 to 25 cm above the ground.

## Background

The main damage is caused by the larvae of the insect. The attack of the insect initially begins in the last week of July to the first fortnight of August. The insect remains active from July to October, damaging the crop most severely during August and September. Heavy incidence may reduce the yield by up to 40%.

## Management

- Practice deep summer ploughing
- Sow the crop at the proper time i.e. at the onset of monsoon, with the recommended seed rate of 75 kg/ha. The crop should not be overcrowded
- Sow tolerant varieties such as NRC-12 or NRC-7
- Avoid excess nitrogenous fertilizers
- Destroy crop residues
- Collect and destroy infested plant parts at least once every 10 days
- Apply pesticides if pest population crosses the Economic Threshold Level (5 per cent damaged plants)
- Spray NSKE 5% or azadirachtin 10,000 ppm @1 ml per 1 litre of water to avoid the pest laying eggs
- Apply Cartap hydrochloride 4 G @ 4 kg/acre at the time of sowing
- Spray lambda cyhalothrin 5% EC @ 10 ml or dimethoate 25% EC @ 2 ml per liter of water 30-35 days after sowing and repeat 15-20 days after the first spraying if infestation is observed
- Always use a hollow cone spray nozzle for spraying

Symptoms of girdle beetle infestation. (Photo by Dr. Prakash Kumar, Deputy Director, (Agronomy)- Research Wing, Government of Rajasthan, via NBAII)



Girdle beetle. (Photo by Dr. Prakash Kumar, Deputy Director, (Agronomy)- Research Wing, Government of Rajasthan, via NBAII)



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) > *Obereopsis brevis*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: India



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