Created in Malawi, July 2013

Management of Rosette in Groundnuts

Recognize the problem

There are two forms of groundnut rosette in Malawi namely yellow rosette and green rosette. Infection of yellow mosaic leads to yellow twisted and distorted leaves, while green mosaic is manifested by mottling of younger leaves while older leaves are dark green and reduced in size. In severe cases, both forms of mosaic lead to stunting and inability to produce pods.

Groundnut rosette symptoms on leaves. (Photo by ICRISAT)



Background

Groundnut rosette, also known as Kadukutu, Khate, in Chichewa and Kaligwiti, Khate in Tumbuka, is a serious disease of groundnuts which can lead to heavy losses of up to 100% if not properly managed. Rosette is caused by a virus that is transmitted by an aphid.

Management

Groundnut rosette can be managed by:

- Early planting, preferably with the first good planting rains. Late planted crop suffers attack by aphids that transmit the viral particle.
- Plant at the correct plant spacing i.e. 75 cm between ridges and 15 cm between plant stations for long duration varieties; 60 cm between ridges and 10 cm between stations for short duration varieties.
- Plant resistant varieties such as "Nsinjilo", "Chalimbana 2005", "Chitala" and "Baka"
- Rogue out and destroy infected plants by either burning or deep burying
- Remove and destroy volunteer groundnut plants from the field because they may become a source of inoculums in the subsequent season

Groundnut plants with and without rosette. (Photo by www.apsnet.org)



Scientific name(s) **> Groundnut Rosette Virus, transmitted by aphid, *Aphis craccivora***

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Malawi

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Edited by Plantwise.

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