**Disease name:** - Tomato yellow leaf curl virus

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Stem borers attack maize plants from two weeks after germination until crop harvest. Two main stem borer species; the indigenous stem borer (<em>Busseola fusca</em>) and the invasive stem borer (<em>Chilo partellus</em>), constrain maize production in Kenya. <em>Busseola fusca</em> occurs at altitudes of 1000 m to over 2700 m. <em>C. partellus</em> is mainly a pest of hot lowland areas, and it is rarely found above 1500 m asl.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Disease/Pest category</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
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<td>Diagnosis/Identification</td>
<td>The young larvae feed on the leaf whorl at the seedling stage, while the older larvae leave the whorl and bore into the stem where they damage the growing point and cause a characteristic “dead-heart” symptom. In older plants, the larvae feed inside the stem causing extensive tunnelling, which may cause lodging and interfere with nutrient supply to the developing grains.</td>
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| Conditions prevailing that contribute to success | Continuous growing of host grass species  
Late planting that leads to attack from earlier planted crop  
Growing of susceptible varieties |
| Control strategies | 1. Regular crop scouting for caterpillars and their feeding activity on crops, especially at early crop stages, is essential for effective management of stem borer spp.  
2. Practise crop rotation to exclude susceptible hosts.  
3. Destroy infested crop residues to kill pupae and to prevent carry-over populations.  
4. Utilise “push-pull” technology for effective management of stem borers; use Napier grass and Desmodium as intercrops.  
5. If populations persist, insecticides such as Bullock (Beta-cyfluthrin) may be required, especially during early crop stages. |

**Note:** Agro-chemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety guidelines.
measures, particularly the manufacturer’s instructions.

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<td>Compiled by</td>
<td>Nyasani J.O., Anyango J.J., Kasina J.M. and Tuey R.</td>
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**Contacts for further information/assistance**

Director KARI  
P.O. Box 57811 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya  
Telephone: +254-20 4183301-20  
Cell phone (Office): +254-722 206988/+254-733 333223  
Email: director@kari.org