



Disease name: - Tomato yellow leaf curl virus

		
<p>Maize cobs damaged by the African stem borer</p>	<p>Maize leaves and growing point showing stem borers damage</p>	<p>“Dead- heart” symptom on a maize plant attacked by stem borers</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>Stem borers attack maize plants from two weeks after germination until crop harvest. Two main stem borer species; the indigenous stem borer (<i>Busseola fusca</i>) and the invasive stem borer (<i>Chilo partellus</i>), constrain maize production in Kenya. <i>Busseola. fusca</i> occurs at altitudes of 1000 m to over 2700 m. <i>C. partellus</i> is mainly a pest of hot lowland areas, and it is rarely found above 1500 m.asl</p>	
<p>Disease/Pest category</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous 	
<p>Diagnosis/Identification</p>	<p>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.</p>	
<p>Conditions prevailing that contribute to success</p>	<p>Continuous growing of host grass species Late planting that leads to attack from earlier planted crop Growing of susceptible varieties</p>	
<p>Control strategies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Note: Agro-chemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety</p>	

	measures, particularly the manufacturer's instructions.
Reference Links	infonet: http://www.infonet-biovision.org/default/ct/102/pests
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