

Control Whiteflies In Citrus

What is whitefly?

- The whitefly is a serious insect pest of citrus in Kenya.
- It causes serious damage when it attacks and sucks tender leaves of plants.
- Heavy attack by whitefly can result in
 - weak trees with few leaves
 - small fruits with little juice
 - low fruit yields
 - sooty mould in fruits that reduce the price of fruits even further

How does it get to the tree?

- The whitefly spreads out from nearby infested plants.
- Adult whiteflies lay eggs on young tender leaves.
- Eggs hatch into yellow nymphs that attach themselves to the underside of leaves.
- Both nymph and adult whiteflies suck sap from the leaves of plants.

How do you recognize the problem?

- Mass of white-winged insects on the underside of leaves which fly off when you disturb them, and then quickly settle again.
- Leaves turn pale brown.
- Leaves and fruits turn blackish and are sticky to touch.
- Leaves are covered with sooty mould.



Leaves are whitish then turn black and are sticky to touch

What can you do?

A. CULTURAL CONTROL

1. Keep the trees strong by adding farmyard manure or fertilizer once a year at the onset of rains.

- Apply 2 dekes of farmyard manure per tree.
- Apply DAP fertilizer

For 1-2 year-old trees, apply 40 soda bottle tops per tree (200 g per tree).

For 2-3 year-old trees, apply 60 soda bottle tops per tree (300 g per tree).

For trees over 3 year old, apply 1/2 kimbo tin per tree (500 g per tree).

2. Keep trees strong by pruning

- Remove poorly placed branches and suckers. It is cheaper to control whiteflies in pruned trees than unpruned trees.
- Prune your fruit trees and apply farm yard manure or fertilizer at the onset of rains



Whitefly adult and nymphs

CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Spray your trees only if the whitefly problem is very serious.
- Use Metasystox or Folimat. A knapsack containing 20 litres of water will require 100 ml of the chemical.
- Add 50 ml white oil to 20 l of water in the knapsack sprayer to help the chemical kill the whitefly.
- Make sure that you spray the underside of the leaves.

Caution

Insecticides are dangerous to humans and animals. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions. Always wear protective clothing like gumboots, mask, plastic gloves or a plastic bag and a waterproof raincoat.

For more information, contact:

Compiled by

VM Kega, WK Malinga, A Blocland

EA Wekesa, W Mwinga, JR Onyango and P Chege

KARI Headquarters Library

resource.center@kari.org

KARI/MTWAPA PO Box 16 Mtwapa