



KALRO/NAVCDP Programme Factsheet No..../2024

MANAGEMENT OF MOLES IN BANANA

Pest name: Moles

Crop affected: Banana

Other crops: Sweet potato, irish potato, arrowroots, sugarcane, maize, beans



A mole

Source: <https://a-z-animals.com/animals/mole/>



Mole damaged banana
Source: Ngugi, CN KALRO



Pseudostem completely severed/chewed out. Source: Ngugi, CN 2019, KALRO

Mole description

Moles are small cylindrical rodents/ insectivorous mammals. Resemble a large mice have a short tail, small eyes, a long snout, and have powerful forelegs modified for digging. They exclusively almost live underground. The pest is common in all banana production areas in the country.

Diagnosis/Identification/Symptoms

- They make mounds of soil (volcano shaped) and/or surface tunnels

Conditions prevailing that contribute to success of pest

- Presence of food like; worms, grubs and other soft insect larvae in the roots

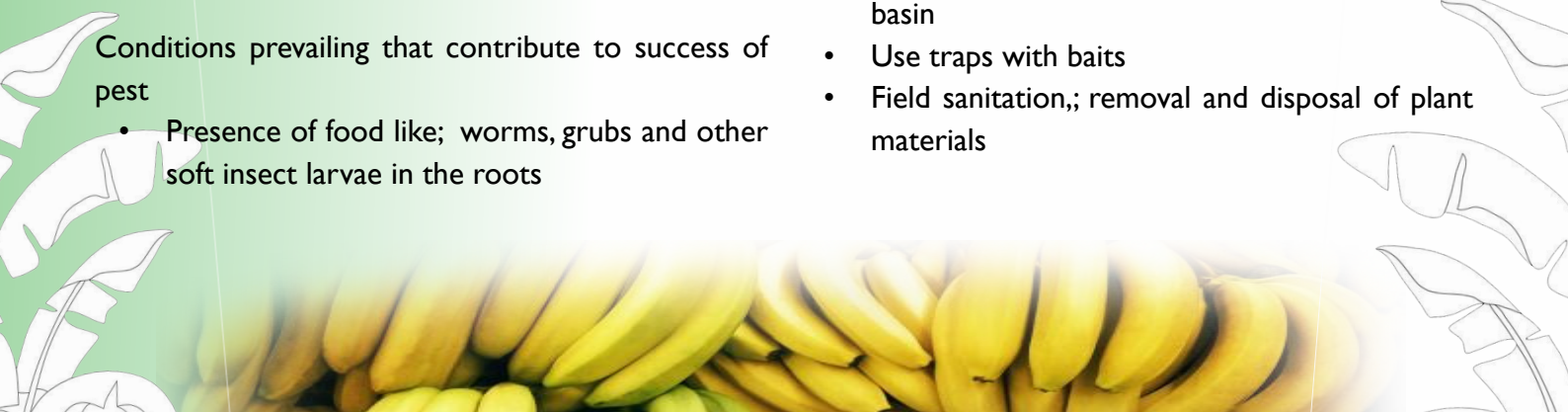
- Neglected/bushy land
- Conditions prevailing that contribute to failure of pest
- Absence of food and well maintained orchard

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices:

- Maintain basin of the banana stools always moist
- Avoid heaps/mounds of soil around the banana basin
- Use traps with baits
- Field sanitation,; removal and disposal of plant materials





Other methods

- Burning cow dung mixed with pepper to smoke moles out has been reported
- Also planting of *Tephrosia vogelii* to repels moles
- Pigs urine and cows poured into the holes continuously
- Mixture of castor oil and soap and spray in the tunnels.
- Marigolds smell repels the moles.

Chemical management:

- Place worm shaped poison baits (least three to four baits in holes with fresh mounds)
- Zinc Phosphide 10%w/w (Fuko kill 10% paste)

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

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Disclaimer: The content of this publication is for general information to banana farmers and technical staff only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of the information herein without professional advice from crop health experts affiliated to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

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