Injured plants can easily be pulled out of the ground.

Inspecting the soil surrounding the damaged root system will expose the white C-shaped grubs.

• Both the adult beetles and Larvae are found in the soil

Control

Seed dressing with Marshal or cruizer at manufactures recommended rates.

Complied by:
D. Ligeyo and P. Kalama

For further information, contact:
The Centre Director
KALRO Kitale
P.O Box 450, Kitale
Tel: 020-2029637
E-mail: kalro.kitale@kalro.org
http://www.kalro.org

Editorial and Publication Coordinated by:
Knowledge, Information and Management Unit
KALRO Information Brochure Series No. 2017/080

IDENTIFYING COMMON MAIZE FIELD PESTS

...and the losses they cause.
Introduction

The common maize field pests include stalk borers, leaf aphids and chaffer grabs. Losses of 20-30% are common, but this may increase especially if the weather favours their survival.

1. Maize stalk borer (*Busseola fusca*)

   *Symptoms*
   
   The larvae feed very little or not at all where the eggs have been laid but migrate into the leaf whorl, where they begin scraping the tender leaves. As they unfold, the leaves show window like perforations. Deep feeding in the whorl destroys the growing point, causing a symptom referred to as “deadheart”. Second generation larvae feed on tassels, ear shanks, ears and stems.

   *Control*
   
   - Early planting
   - Bulldoc Ec spray or granules

2. Aphids (*Aphis gossypiella*)

   *Symptoms*
   
   The role of the aphid as a vector of sugar cane mosaic virus, maize dwarf mosaic virus and maize leaf-fleck virus makes it a pest of considerable economic importance in the maize growing regions of Kenya. Diseased plants may become stunted. Young plants that have been affected rarely produce cobs. Sugary droplets excreted by the aphids favor the development of the black molds and make the plants sticky. Their colonies may cover the emerging tassels and the surrounding leaves, preventing pollen release. In severe outbreaks the ear shoot is also infested, and seed set may be affected.

   *Control*
   
   - Bulldoc EC spray

3. Chafer/White grubs (*Phyllophaga* spp. and *Cyclocephala* spp.)

   *Symptoms*
   
   Wilting of the whole plant as a result of feeding on the roots by larvae.

   Poor stands and patches of tilted, curved, or lodged plants that show uneven growth.

   *Control*
   
   - Bulldoc Ec spray or granules