



**RESEARCH ARTICLE :**

## Estimation of yield losses caused by defoliators in sunflower

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**SUMMARY :** A field experiment in paired plot design with two treatments and sixteen replications was laid out at experimental farm of Oilseeds Research Station, Latur, to assess the relative abundance and extent of damage caused by the various pests attacking sunflower in the Marathwada region of the Maharashtra state during the 2011 and 2013 in *Kharif* seasons. Selective applications of insecticides such as quinalphos, profenophos and Spinosad was deployed in field experiments to determine the extent of damage caused by the defoliators of the sunflower. For the management of other sucking pest and head borer selective insecticides treatment was given in both protected and unprotected plots of the experiment. Pooled results indicated that sunflower crop left unprotected recorded significant yield reduction to the extent of 20.29 per cent as compared to crop protected through chemicals.

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