



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Efficacy of fungicides on seed mycoflora of sunflower at different storage periods

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ARTICLE CHRONICLE :

Received :

11.07.2017;

Accepted :

26.07.2017

SUMMARY : The efficacy of seven fungicides viz., captan, mancozeb, carboxin + thiram, carbendazim, tebuconazole, carbendazim + iprodione and metalaxyl against seed mycoflora of sunflower at recommended dosages and at different storage periods (1 day to 3 months) were studied. A total of 16 seed borne fungi belonging to 13 genera viz., *Alternaria* sp., *Macrophomina phaseolina*, *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus ochraceus*, *Aspergillus ustus*, *Emericella nidulans*, *Fusarium* sp., *Epicoccum* sp., *Cladosporium* sp., *Curvularia* sp., *Chaetomium* sp., *Drechslera* sp., *Rhizopus* sp., *Trichoderma* sp. and *Penicillium* sp. were recovered from untreated and treated seeds at different storage periods. Among the fungicides tested, seed treatment with carboxin + thiram (4.19%) was found significantly superior in reducing the per cent seed infection followed by carbendazim + iprodione (11.84%) and the least of that was carbendazim (62.47%). the per cent seed infection by different seed mycoflora increased with the increase in storage period. However, there was a gradual decline in field mycoflora viz., *Alternaria* sp., *Macrophomina phaseolina*, *Fusarium* sp. and *Drechslera* sp. and gradual increase in storage mycoflora viz., *Aspergillus flavus*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Cladosporium* sp., *Curvularia* sp. etc. was found with the increase in storage period.

KEY WORDS :

Sunflower seed mycoflora, Fungicide seed treatments, Storage mycoflora, Standard blotter method

How to cite this article : Srinivas, A., Pushpavathi, B., Lakshmi, B.K.M. and Shashibushan, V. (2017). Efficacy of fungicides on seed mycoflora of sunflower at different storage periods. *Agric. Update*, 12(TECHSEAR-4): 932-937; DOI: 10.15740/HAS/AU/12. TECHSEAR(4)2017/932-937.

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