



RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Effect of date of planting and spacing on the activity of chilli fruit borer (*Helicoverpa armigera* Hub.)

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Fruit borer, Fruit damage per cent, Planting date, Spacing

SUMMARY : The field experiments were carried out for two seasons to know the effect of planting time and plant geometry on the activity of chilli fruit borer at the MARS, UAS, Dharwad. The experiment was laid out in a split plot design with three replications across four dates of planting viz., M₁- June 30th, M₂- July 15th, M₃- July 30th and M₄- August 15th as main plot treatments and four spacings viz., S₁- 90 x 60cm, S₂- 60 x 60cm, S₃- 75 x 45cm and S₄- 60 x 30cm as sub-plot treatments. The seeds were sown on the raised seed bed on May 15th, May 30th, June 15th and June 30th in 2011-12 and 2012-13. The pooled data on the effect of planting dates and spacing on the activity of chilli fruit borer showed that, among the different planting dates *i.e.* in main plots, July 15th transplanted crop recorded significantly less fruit borer larvae per plant and fruit borer damage per cent followed by July 30th. Whereas, significantly more number of fruit borer larvae and fruit borer damage per cent was observed in June 30th transplanted crop at 60, 90 and 120 DAT. Among the different spacings *i.e.*, in subplots, significantly least fruit borer larval count and per cent fruit borer damage was observed in 90 X 60cm, followed by 60 X 60cm subplots. Whereas, 60 X 30cm recorded significantly more number of fruit borer larval count and per cent damage. The interaction effect among the date of planting and different spacings was found significant. Significantly lower fruit borer larval population and fruit damage per cent was recorded by the interaction of July 15th transplanted crop at 90 X 60cm spacing followed by July 15th + 60 X 60cm and July 15th + 75 X 45cm, respectively. Whereas, higher pest population was recorded by the interaction of June 30th + 60 x 30cm.

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