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Seasonal incidence of the sucking pest and lady bird beetle on Bt cotton

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ABSTRACT

Seasonal incidence of sucking pests in *Kharif* 2016 at College of Agriculture, Dhule revealed that, the leafhopper incidence reached its peak activity during the second week of October (6.64 leafhoppers/3 leaves/plant), whereas, the peak incidence of aphids was noticed in the third week of October (8.82 aphids/3 leaves/plant). The peak incidence of the whiteflies was recorded during the fourth week of October (8.02 whiteflies/3 leaves/plant). The peak incidence of the thrips was recorded during the third week of October (6.76 thrips/3 leaves/plant). The activity of predator lady bird beetle was at its peak during first week of October (2.94 lady bird beetles/plant), which is directly related with the activity of the sucking pest in field. The correlation between incidence of leaf hoppers (r = 0.205), aphids (r = 0.174), whiteflies (r = 0.206), thrips (r = 0.167), was positively non-significant with maximum temperature (T_{max}). The minimum temperature (T_{min}) showed negative significant correlation with whiteflies (r = -0.640**), thrips (r =-0.464*) and negative non-significant correlation with leafhoppers (r =-0.411) and aphids (r = -0.3111). The morning relative humidity (MRH) showed negative significant correlation with occurrence of whiteflies (r = -0.440*) and negative non significant correlation with occurrence of the leafhoppers (r = -0.123), aphids (r = -0.101) and thrips (r = -0.184). Similarly, the evening humidity (ERH) showed negative non significant correlation with the pests such as leafhoppers (r = -0.038), aphids (r = -0.021), whiteflies (r = -0.166) and thrips (r = -0.085) during *Kharif* 2016 season. The rainfall had negatively non significant effect at 5 per cent level of significance with leafhoppers, aphids, whitefly and thrips.

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