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Weekly Report for the Management of Important Cotton Insect Pests on Alternate Host Plants in Cotton Zone

Management of Whitefly, Mealy Bug, Dusky Bug

Directorate General Pest Warning &
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Lahore

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Total Area Visited: Total 8003 km were surveyed in 14 districts while in case of ornamental plants 44 Kanals were surveyed. (Table 2).

Dusky Cotton Bug: It was observed on 63 trees, 18 weeds and 11 ornamental plants in districts of Multan, Khanewal, Vehari, Lodhran, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar and R.Y.Khan. Farmers were advised to adopt plant protection measures as under;

1. Bury infested plants and weeds carefully.
2. Keep cotton sticks away from the water channels.
3. Keep field crops, vegetables, ornamental plants, orchards, field bunds and water channels free from weeds.
4. Eradicate weeds at their early stage.
5. Remove alternate host plants.
6. Use effective insecticides at recommended doses (Table 1).

Mealy Bug: It was observed on 24 weeds and 3 ornamental plants in district Bahawalnagar and Layyah. Farmers should monitor its population on every host plant and adopt appropriate control measures in consultation with local field staff of Pest Warning or Extension Wings of Agriculture Department.

1. Apply Mineral Oil (dimer) along with recommended insecticides on ornamental plants, field crops and vegetables for its effective control (Table 1).
2. Bury infested plants and weeds carefully.
3. Keep cotton sticks away from the water channels.
4. Keep field crops, vegetables, ornamental plants, orchards, field bunds and water channels free from weeds.
5. Eradicate weeds at their early stages.
6. Uproot carefully the mealy bug infested plants and bury them.
7. Prune the shrubs and trees infested with Mealy bug.

Whitefly: It was observed on 4 weeds and 1 ornamental plant in district Bahawalpur. Eradicate weeds which are acting as alternate host plants of Whitefly.

1. Motivate farmers to keep whitefly on alternate hosts at the lower ebb.
2. Avoid excessive use of Nitrogen in vegetables and other crops.

3. Install cards of green lacewing (*Chrysoperla* sp.) in the field crop as biological control agent. Farmers may get cards from Biological Control Labs of Agri. Extension Wing at Vehari, Sahiwal, Faisalabad, T.T.Singh, Jhang, M.Garh, Layyah, Pakpattan and Okara.
4. Apply pesticides as last resort as given in the table 1.

Table 1: Pesticides recommended against Dusky Bug, Mealy Bug and Whitefly of Cotton		
S#	Common Name	Dose/Acre
Dusky Cotton Bug		
1	Fipronil	400 ML
2	Lambda Cyhalothrin 2.5EC	330 ML
Mealy Bug		
1	Profenofos 50 EC	800 ML
2	Profenofos + Cypermethrin	500 ML
3	Malathion	500 ML
Whitefly		
1	Flonicamid 50% WG	80-120 g
2	Diafenthuron 500 SC	200 ML
3	Acetameprid	125-150 g
4	Pyriproxifen 10.8 EC	500 ML