

Thrips attack of Beans

Recognize the problem

Thrips are tiny, slender insects with fringed wings. They are plant feeders that feed by puncturing their host and sucking out the cell contents. Thrips scar leaf, flower, or fruit surfaces and can cause leaves to become papery and distorted. Infested terminals may become rolled, and drop their leaves prematurely. Discoloured or distorted plant tissue and black specks of faeces around stippled leaf surfaces are clues that thrips are or were present.

Stippling of leaves as a result of thrips damage. (Photo by Scot Nelson (CC BY))



Background

Thrips attack many crops in tropics/sub-tropical areas: beans, avocado, cucumber, grapes, Gourds, citrus etc. Thrips prefer to feed in rapidly growing tissue. Using too much nitrogen fertilizer can promote higher populations of thrips.

Management

- Keep plants well irrigated, but avoid excessive applications of nitrogen fertilizer
- Apply balanced doses of fertilizers - vigorous plants normally outgrow thrips damage
- Spray with insecticidal soaps (Safer): spray soap water (1:9) once in a week
- Sprays must be applied thoroughly to cover all susceptible plant tissue, such as new leaf growth and buds. On plants with a history of severe, unacceptable damage, begin treatment early when thrips or their damage is first observed

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Frankliniella schultzei, and others**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bangladesh



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