

## **Management of thrips in garlic**

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Garlic is widely used as a condiment in Indian cuisine, especially for its medicinal properties. It is grown in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Tamil Nadu (Nilgiris and Kodaikanal hills). Among the insect pests, the onion thrips, *Thrips tabaci* is a major one injuring garlic.

### **Damage symptoms**

Both nymphs and adults cause injury to the plants by sucking the vital leaf sap. They remain in dense concentrations at leaf bases and whorls and feed by lacerating the tissues and imbibing the oozing cell sap. The infestation develops a spotted appearance on the leaves, subsequently turning into silvery white blotches. The leaf tips fade and the basal portions get blighted and distorted from tip downwards and finally the plant dries up. The affected plants yield less, with small sized bulbs. Adults are slender, yellowish brown and measure about 1mm in length and have narrow fringed wings. Eggs are laid singly in tender leaves by making slits with sharp ovipositors by the females. A single female lays 40-50 eggs which hatch after 4-9 days. The entire life cycle is completed in 11-21 days. There are more than ten generations per year. The pest occurs on garlic from November to May and migrates to other crops from June.

### **Management**

Varieties with open type growth and circular leaf structure are not preferred by thrips. Tolerant varieties of Garlic viz. G-2, G-19, LCG-1, Ooty-1 may be utilised for cultivation. Higher doses of nitrogenous fertilizers and close planting should be avoided. Clean cultivation, regular hoeing and flooding of infested field will check the thrips population. Insect predators like green lacewing fly and tiny ladybird beetles check the population of this pest. Application of profenofos or malathion 0.05 per cent, methyl demeton 0.025 per cent, monocrotophos 0.036 per cent, formothion 0.025 per cent, dimethoate 0.03 per cent, carbaryl 0.1 per cent or phorate 10G at 10kg/hectare could control the pest.

### **Contact**

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