Chemical Control of the Soya bean Scale in Hot Peppers

Recognize the problem
The soya bean scale has a light orange body, black legs and a white cottony sac sticking out of the body (2/3 to 3/4 inch long). During the dry season they can multiply rapidly and can quickly destroy a crop if left uncontrolled. Seedlings are highly susceptible to attack and growth can be severely retarded, even resulting in death.

Background
- The soya bean scale can be a serious pest of hot peppers in Barbados. Farmers can have a 95% reduction in yield during heavy infestations of this pest.
- It attacks a wide host range of crops including peppers (hot and sweet), lettuce, beans, peanuts, soya beans and pigeon peas.

Management
Cultural control:
- Inspect fields daily for the presence of the scale
- Remove heavily infested plants from the field and destroy
- Ultra-fine oil and Safer soap can also be used to control this insect. This could be sprayed on the scales every 14 days as a non-chemical approach.

Chemical control:
- Imidacloprid (1/5 tsp per gallon of water) or Acetamiprid (3/4 tsp per gallon of water) should be sprayed on the entire plant especially beneath the leaves. Spray every 14-21 days.

Scientific name(s) > Crypticerya genistae

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.

Authors: Bret Taylor
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resources Management
tel: 1-246-3102821 email: bmtay@hotmail.com

Edited by Plantwise.

©CAB International. Published under a CC-BY-SA 4.0 licence.