

Cotton Jassid

Recognize the problem

The cotton jassid is a serious sucking pest of cotton in Pakistan. Adults are small, like the tip of a lentil, and flat. Adults are usually yellowish-green or white with black spots on the front wings. They jump and fly away at the slightest disturbance. The cotton jassid sucks sap from the underside of leaves and leaf buds. When jassids are abundant, cotton growth is stunted, the leaves turn downwards and heavy fruit loss may occur on pre flowering plants. Leaves turn pale and a rust red colour develops at the edges. During a severe attack, leaf shedding occurs.

Adult jassid. (Photo by Surender Dalal (CC BY))



Background

The jassid attacks cotton plants throughout the year and lays its eggs in soft plant tissue. Cotton jassids are more active during the hot periods of summer and can also live on other plants, like potato, chilli, brinjal, okra and ornamental plants.

Management

Natural enemies:

- Predatory bugs like ladybird beetles and spiders will attack jassids. Do not kill these natural enemies when you see them!

Cultural control:

- Clean cultivation: avoid excessive use of fertilizer (no more than 3-4 bags of urea) as jassids will be attracted to crops higher in nitrogen, as they will be tastier
- Grow cotton from 15 April to 31 May to escape jassid attack

Chemical Control:

- Use seed treatment (imidacloprid 70ws @10gm/kg seed) at the time of sowing
- Apply dimethoate 40EC 400ml per acre at the time of high infestation, no more than twice
- Apply acephate75SP 250-375gm per acre at the time when pest pressure is highest

Note: Imidacloprid and Dimethoate can have non-target effects. Wear rubber gloves and shoes while handling insecticides. Keep your mouth and nose covered with a mask and do not eat, drink or smoke while using insecticides. Dispose of used Bottles properly.

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.

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan



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