

Rice Grasshopper

Recognize the problem

Rice grasshopper is an important pest of rice. It causes heavy damage to nurseries and reduces yield. Adults are about the size of your little finger. The body is a shiny greenish yellow colour with three black lines on its upper side. In the early stages, the young are yellowish, with many reddish brown spots. They become greenish as they grow older. Adults and their young are mostly found near grasses, water channels, ditches and rice fields. The adults and young eat leaves at the sides first. You can see large chunks of the leaves being damaged. During August and September they cause heavy damage and leaf shedding may occur. Rice grasshoppers also feed on grains, resulting in empty panicles.

Background

Rice grasshoppers feed throughout the year on rice, maize, millet, sugarcane and other grasses. They lay eggs from September to November in soil at the depth of your little finger. Eggs are laid in pods and each pod contains many eggs. It sleeps between November and March and the eggs hatch at the end of June or in early July (during the monsoon) and start feeding on the leaves. They can travel long distances when they come out of the ground.

Management

- Avoid sowing alternate host plants near the rice crop
- Cut the soil with a spade or rake, especially in rice field bunds & water channels to destroy the egg pods
- Spray a pesticide like fenitrothion + BPMC (fenobucarb) @ 400 ml/acre or dust fenitrothion + BPMC @ 12 Kg / acre when the number of grasshoppers is found to be more than 2/ sweep in nursery or 5/ sweep in crop. Note: fenitrothion can have serious effects on non-targets.
- Purchase the pesticide from an authorized pesticide dealer

Adult grasshopper. (Photo by NBAII)



Damage caused by rice grasshoppers. (Photo by NBAII)



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) > *Hieroglyphus banian*

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Pakistan



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Edited by Plantwise.