# Sugarcane Black Bug

*Cavalerius excavates*

## Prevention
- To prevent its attack, timely irrigate the field. Sometimes it may cause serious damage when there is no rain and field is not irrigated.
- Avoid growing sugarcane varieties with broad and loose leaf sheaths because these are preferred by this insect.
- Do not grow alternate host plants like grasses, maize and rice near the sugarcane field.
- Cultural practices such as burning of stubbles also reduce its attack. Avoid ratooning of heavily infested crop.

## Monitoring
- Adults are black in colour with white patches on body. Young ones are similar to adults but smaller in size.
- Affected crops become brown, and red spots appear on the leaf. Monitor the basal part of the plant as these mostly present there.
- The pest is active throughout the year but is most active in the dry and hot season when there is no rain.
- Attacks in early crop stages occur April to June.

## Direct Control
- Frequent irrigation reduces the attack. Avoid use of excessive nitrogenous fertilisers.
- Burn stubbles to control this pest.

## Direct Control
- Preferably, spraying would not be recommended but if the insect could not be controlled by granular insecticides, then spray with insecticides. If spray is needed then apply directly on leaf sheath. Apply insecticides on the appearance of pest.
- Apply following granular insecticides, Imidacloprid + fipronil (Lesenta 80% WG) @ 100 gm/acre, Fipronil (regent 80% WDG) @ 30 gm/acre.
- If spray is needed than spray with Fipronil (Refree 5% EC) @ 300 ml/acre, bifenthrin (Talstar 10%EC) @ 250 ml/acre (PHI 21 days), Lambda-cyhalothrin (karate 2.5% EC) @ 200 ml/acre (PHI 3 days).

## Restrictions
- Imidacloprid, Fipronil - WHO Class II
- Lambda-cyhalothrin, bifenthrin: WHO Class II, Always irrigate the field just after the application of granular insecticides. Granular insecticides should be broadcasted, whereas liquid insecticides should be sprayed.

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**Pakistan**
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