

Management of flatid planthoppers

Recognize the problem

The affected plants become yellow and dry. This insect attacks crops like corn, potato and vegetables. It also attacks forage, some weeds, trees with pods, tobacco bushes and refuges in the native forest.

The adults live on the undersides of leaves, stems, branches and flowers like in corn. When they suck the sap, the plant is damaged and its development is impaired. The plant becomes yellow and fades. The insect releases honeydew, which favors the development of black sooty mold.

Background

They are small sucking insects with greenish wings. Young or immature nymphs are attached to the plants. They suck the sap from cultured and forest plants.

In the winter, the population remains controlled, due to the cold weather, but in the summer they increase considerably.

Management

Since it is a new pest, the following measures are recommended:

- Always observe the crop, as it is a new pest and its life cycle is not well known
- Apply control to affected crops, as well as to the edges of the planting areas, since they serve as a refuge to the pest
- Use the insecticide Imidacloprid at 6 g per 20 L water
- To prevent resistance to this insect, the insecticide must be alternated with others like Cypermethrin, applied at 15 to 20 mL per 20-L knapsack

Adult flatid planthoppers feeding on corn. (Photo by I.I.A. "El Vallecito")



Damage by flatid planthoppers to a corn cob. (Photo by I.I.A. "El Vallecito")



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) > Order: Hemiptera, Family: Flatidae

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Bolivia



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