

Application of growing degree days for mango hopper population dynamics at Lucknow, U.P.

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ABSTRACT

Mango hopper population dynamics at different phenological stages was predicted using the growing degree days (GDD) of mango during 2013, 2014 and 2015 under Lucknow climatic conditions. Results revealed that at the time of flowering, there was wide variations in hopper infestation level during three consecutive seasons. Identical trend was observed at early flowering (30 per cent of panicle flowers open), full flowering (more than 50 per cent of panicle flowers open), full flowering (all petals fallen or dry) and from fruit set to physiological fruit maturity. The relationship between the GDD and hopper population was established by linear regression analysis and it was inferred that the GDD had explained variation in hopper population upto 66 per cent across the three seasons. Thus, growing degree days served as a basis for predicting hopper population at different phenological stages of mango.

Key words : Phenological stages, mango, mango hopper, growing degree days

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.), one of the major fruit crops of India, is known as the king of fruits for its sweetness, excellent flavour, delicious taste and high nutritive value. Mango is infested by several insect pests during its growth and development. Among the insect pests mango hoppers cause heavy damage to crop during flowering and fruiting stage, resulting in 25-60 per cent yield loss (Munjet *et al.*, 2017). Degree-day based models are very useful in predictions as development of insects and plants is temperature-dependent and predict the biological phenomenon at most accuracy (Mussey and Potter 1997). Daily maximum and minimum temperatures undergoes great variation and seasonal dynamism also influences fruits production (Adak *et al.*, 2017). The variation in the temperature influences the mango hopper population positively (Pandey *et al.* 2003; Zagade and Chaudhari, 2010). Therefore in this study emphasis was given to use the growing degree days (GDD) or accumulated heat units of mango derived from the prevailing maximum and minimum temperature, for appraisal of the hopper population.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the twenty two mango orchards (cv. *Dashehari*) aged between 22-35 years for three seasons (2013, 2014 and 2015). Data on the incidence of hoppers on leaves/panicle/trunk were recorded on weekly

basis from five randomly selected trees by net sweeping method and expressed as number of hopper per sweep. Mean population of hopper per standard meteorological week was taken into consideration for the further analysis. Data on the mango phenology was collected based on the modified Biologische Bundesanstalt, Bundessortenamt and Chemische Industrie (BBCH) scale of phenological stages developed by Rajan *et al.* (2011). The start in inflorescence emergence in mango is described by the scale 510, beginning of bud swelling-511, bud bursting-513 and so on so forth. The flowers visibility indicated by the scale 515 to 517 with the end of panicle development as 519. The principal flowering stages described as 610 to 617 with first flower open-610, 30 per cent flowering-613 and more than 50 per cent flowering -615. The fruit set in mango is described by 619 BBCH scale.

Daily weather data of temperature (maximum and minimum), relative humidity (morning and evening), rainfall, wind speed, bright sunshine hours and evaporation rates were recorded in the Agromet Observatory located within the experimental site. Growing degree days (GDD) were calculated as follows:

Growing degree days (GDD) = $\Sigma(T_{\text{Max}} + T_{\text{Min}}) / 2 - T_{\text{Base}}$

Where, T_{Max} and T_{Min} are the maximum and minimum temperatures ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) of the day and T_{Base} is base temperature which was taken as 15°C (Whiley *et al.*, 1991). Growing