

Introduction

Pigeon pea yields can be reduced by 80 - 85 % by pests.

Pigeon peas are attacked by different pests at various stages of growth.

The major pests of pigeon peas are:

Foliage Pests



Aphids - suck leaflets and young stems



Jassids - feed on leaflets

Pests of flowers

Thrips - suck flowers, heavy infestation leads to flower shedding

Blister beetles - chew flowers



Thrips suck flowers

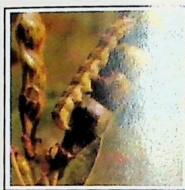


Blister beetle chewing a flower

Pests on pods

Pod sucking bugs - suck developing seeds through the pods

Pod borers - Chew buds, flowers and seed by boring through the pod.



Pod borer

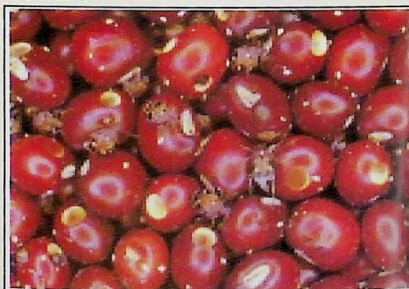


Pod sucking bug

Storage pests:

Bruchids - Attack mature and dried pods.

Control:



Identify the pest:

- Select the plants randomly and examine for pest infestation
- Examine all parts of the plants
- Spray if 5 out of 10 plants in one row are infested with aphids, or 3 out of 5 plants have eggs or American ball worm larvae.

Cultural control:

- Following these practices will reduce pests and increase yields
- Mix seed with dry red pepper at a rate of 2 mugs to 90kg,
- Mix seed with pounded tobacco at a rate of 3 mugs to 90kg,
- Plant during the slant of veins
- Plant three seeds per hole at 60 X 30 cms (Sepi-2) and 75 X 30 cm (Sepi-I) then thin to 2 plants at 15 cm high.
- Clean the field of weeds 3 weeks after germination and three weeks later

- Dry seed thoroughly to a moisture content of 12 - 13 %; and Put grain under the sun once every month.

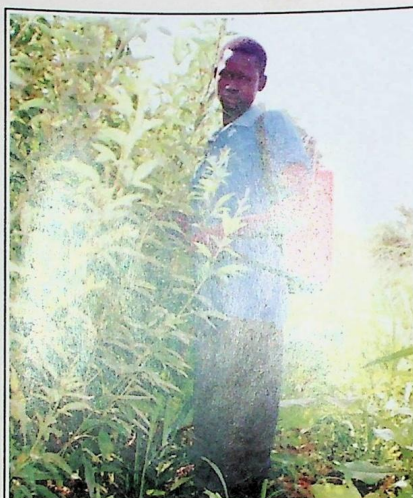
Chemical control:

- Identify the pests
- Use these pesticides for control of various pests
- Dimethoate (rogor), ambush, fenom-p
- Use recommended dosage (on the container)
- Spray all parts of the plant
- Dress seed with actellic or malathion - dust
- Follow direction of wind during spraying

CAUTION

CHEMICALS CAN KILL

therefore follow the manufacturers instructions carefully.



More information can be obtained from

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MANAGE PIGEON PEA PESTS FOR INCREASED YIELDS



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