

Maize Lethal Necrosis (MLN)

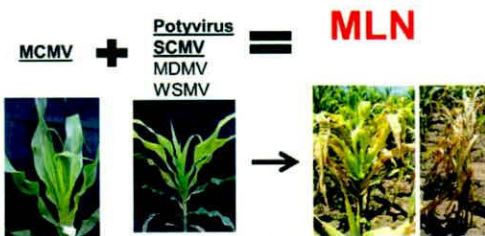
Symptoms: Severe mottling and drying of leaves, dead hearts, stunting, leaf necrosis, premature drying of cobs and tassels and shriveled or barren ears.



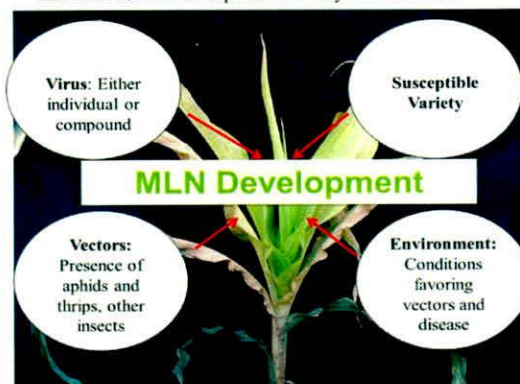
What is Maize Lethal Necrosis?

MLN occurs when maize chlorotic mottle virus (MCMV) infects maize with any one of the following viruses; sugarcane mosaic virus, maize dwarf mosaic virus, or wheat streak mosaic virus. The disease can cause up to 100% loss of the maize crop. The disease was first reported in Kenya in 2011 and observed in Uganda by October 2012.

What is Maize Lethal Necrosis



- Individual infection with each virus can also cause disease
- Typically, infection with one virus results in milder symptoms than MLN but reaction depends on Variety and virus strain



Management of MLN

- Do not re-plant seed from previous season or from infected areas.
- Plant certified seed which is treated with insecticide.
- Keep fields free from weeds, especially grasses.
- Inspect fields at least once a week, uproot and burn all plants showing symptoms immediately.
- Boost plant growth and vigour by: planting at onset of rains, applying manure or basal and topdressing fertilizers like Urea and CAN.
- Administer insecticide sprays with Imidacloprid 100g/L + β -cyfluthrin 45 g/L at the rate of 0.3 l/ha starting at 1 or 3 weeks after emergence (WAE).
- Rotate maize with non-cereal crops such as beans, sweet potato, sunflower, soy bean, potato, etc.
- Collectively control the disease with your neighbours to minimize wider spread.
- Report cases of the disease outbreaks to your agricultural officer.



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