Plutella xylostella **(Diamond Back moth):** In India, the pest was first recorded on crucifer vegetables in 1914 (Fletcher, 1920). It is a most destructive cosmopolitan pest, damaging severely cruciferous crops and distributed widely in South-East Asia (Lim and Khoo, 1986). The annual costs for its management were estimated to be 1 billion dollars (Talekar and Shelton 1993). Krishnakumar *et al.* (1984) noted 52 per cent loss in marketable cabbage yield due to this pest. Host plants include both cultivated and wild plants of the family Cruciferae, as well as several ornamentals, such as wallflower, candytuft, stocks, and alyssum. Cultivated crops that are attacked include broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese broccoli, Chinese cabbage, flowering white cabbage, head cabbage, mustard cabbage and watercress. Weed hosts, such as mustard and radish, are important reservoir hosts for the species. It is difficult to control because of genetic resistance to insecticides.

DAMAGE

The first instar sometimes feeds in the spongy plant tissue beneath the leaf surface forming shallow mines that appear as numerous white marks. These mines are usually not longer than the length of the body. The larvae are surface feeders in all subsequent stages. These larvae feed on the lower leaf surface 62-78% of the time, chewing irregular patches in the leaves (Harcourt, 1957). All the leaf tissues are consumed except the veins. On some leaves, the larvae feed on all but the upper epidermis creating a "windowing" effect. The last stage larva is a voracious feeder; it causes more injury than the first three larval instars.



Use Pheromone Traps from 1 month crop stage @ 4 – 6 No's per acre to control pest at early stage.

Trap canopy should be placed one feet above crop canopy to achieve optimum catch.

Always use Phero – Sensor ^{TM} – Delta for best results.

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