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Shoot Gall Psylla: an Emerging Threat to Mango Orchards of Uttarakhand

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In recent time, mango shoot gall psylla pest emerged as a most noxious pest in the state of Uttarakhand owing to its ability to transform reproductive and vegetative buds into galls results in poor to no fruit setting on affected mango plant. In Dehradun conditions it was observed that the severity of the infestation was as high as 70-80 per cent in Dushehari, followed by Bombay Green (40-55%) and Mallika (20-25%) whereas pest infestation was not noticed in the cv. Amrapali. Management of pest is possible by spraying of profenophos @ 2 ml/litre in the second week of March followed by Dimethoate (0.15%) or Thiomithoxam (0.05%) in second fortnight of August to first fortnight of September.

Introduction

Mango (*Mangifera indica* L.) is the most popular among the tropical fruits of the world. It has been rightly described as 'King of fruits' owing to its historical and religious importance, attractive aroma, delicious fruit quality with richness in vitamins and minerals, accessibility to the common man, liking by the masses and adaptation in large area under cultivation ranging from near coastal areas to the Himalayan foot hills. Mango is one of major fruit crop of Uttarakhand contributing highest (18.82%) share in fruit production of the state, with an average productivity of 4.07 MT/ha which is significantly lower than the average mango productivity (7.33 MT/ha) of the constry (NHB database, 2014-15, 2nd Advance Estimates). The Major reason behind lower productivity of state is change in population dynamics of insect pest under changing climatic scenario. Mango shoot gall psylla (*Apsylla cistellata*,