

*Short Communication*

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**SURVEY REPORT ON MANGO PESTS AND FUNGAL COMPLEX IN AND AROUND KARACHI**S.I. Ahmed, S.A. Qureshi, N. Sultana, B.A. Khan  
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Insects and fungi damage to mango trees in and around Karachi is receiving increased attention and each year during the mango season this disease complex is highlighted in the newspapers.

In order to assess the damage due to this disease complex, a team of PCSIR scientists surveyed about 1500 acres of plantation area during mango season and about 350 questionnaires were completed to obtain necessary information. The results of this survey showed that the major cause of the mango disease is the attack of mealy bugs, scale insects, leafhoppers and mango stem-borer. The blackening of mango leaves is mainly because of the excretion of sweet substance called 'honeydew' on which a number of fungi establish themselves. In severe cases, the pests and fungal complex interfere with photosynthesis and respiration and the plant eventually dies. High humidity, mild temperature, lack of protective and curative measures are the main con-

tributing factors for severe infection.

Besides thorough investigations regarding the causative factors in the field and laboratory, studies were also undertaken to identify the insects and fungi responsible for this disease complex. Based on this survey, the factors for the disease and the failure of the crop are briefly discussed below.

*Factors Leading to the Destruction of Mango Trees within the City.* (a) Lack of knowledge about the proper time and type of irrigation and manuring among mango growers. (b) Thick plantation leads to increased infestation and shortage of nutrition etc. (c) Presence of alterante hosts for mango pests like Roses, *Nerium*, *Ficus* etc. close to mango trees. (d) People are not pruning the infested parts of their trees. A few who do it, leave the infested branches near to the healthy trees instead of burning them, thus increase the chances of infestation. (e) Lack of pesticides coverage, nonselective insecticides at wrong time and supply of ineffective insecticides.

*Factors Leading to the Failure of Mango-Crop in the Orchards Around Karachi.* (a) Nonavailability of water. (b) High prices of pesticides, (c) Ineffectivity of pesticides. (d) Ignorance about the selectivity of insecticides.

The survey report covers the percentage infestation of various insects and sooty molds in Karachi city as well as the adjoining areas and the practices like manuring, irrigation and plant protection measures followed by the mango growers. The report has a list of recorded insects and fungi at the end alongwith the recommended methods of irrigation, manuring, plant protection measures and the possible help which PCSIR could render to the farmers.