

Forewarning for whitefly, *Dialeuropora decempuncta* infesting mulberry

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Attention !!!! A little precaution can save you a lot

Occurrence of whitefly, *Dialeuropora decempuncta* (Quaintance & Baker) infestation is observed in Cheyur village in Tirupur district of Tamil Nadu. At present the incidence ranges between 5-10% which may further increase as the summer proceeds. This whitefly is a sucking pest. Feeding of the plant sap by the insect affect the quality of the leaf and makes it unsuitable for silkworm rearing. In gardens having heavy infestation, chlorosis and cupping of the leaves were observed. As the infested plants grows the bottoms leaves, generally last 4-7, gets covered with copper sulphate blue powdery substance. This is due to the presence of blue coloured filamentous covering of the nymphal stages of the insect which develops on the ventral side of the mulberry leaf. The honey dew excreted by the insect leads to the development of sooty mold on the mulberry leaves. The leaves covered with black coloured sooty mold and the blue powdery substance together make the leaves unsuitable for feeding to silkworm.



Whitefly infested garden showing cupping of the leaves



Whiteflies on ventral surface of mulberry leaf



Nymphs of whitefly on the ventral surface of mulberry leaf

Following control measures have to be taken to check further spread.

- Place yellow sticky trap in the garden as a mechanical control method.
- Spray 0.2% DDVP (2.63ml/ litre 76%EC) @ 2.63ml/litre 10 days after pruning.
- Spray 0.1% Rogor (3ml/litre, 30EC) 7days after DDVP spray.
- Release 1 bottle (250 no) *Scymnus coccivora* beetles 5 days after the chemical spray.
- Cleaning the garden immediately after pruning and burning the collected waste will help to kill the different stages of the insect harbouring on it as this waste will act as a reservoir for the whitefly and will help for further spread of the insect.