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CONTROL OF NEMATODES (EEL WORMS) IN YOUNG TEA

(This replaces Circular No. N-2, Serial No. 11/94)

1. Introduction

When fields infested with plant parasitic nematodes are replanted, the recommendations given in Circular No. PM 12 should be strictly implemented. Any slight damage caused by a residual population of pathogenic nematodes, remaining after rehabilitation, could cause a slowing down of even the tolerant clones at the time of establishment. Hence, as a guard against such possible setbacks the following protective measures are recommended for adoption at planting. It should be emphasized that residual populations could build up after rehabilitation when new tea has been introduced.

2. Prophylactic measures at planting

The following nematicides could be used at the time of planting:

Phenamiphos ("Nemacur 5G")
Carbofuran ("Furadan 3 G" & "Curetter 3G")
Cadusaphos ("Rugby 10G")
Metham Sodium (Metam)

2.1 Rate of application

2.1.1 Phenamiphos or Carbofuran or Cadusaphos

Any of the above granular nematicides could be used @ 7 g (1/4 oz) per plant. The granules should be mixed with the soil in the planting hole in such a way that the roots of the nursery plant gets envelope coverage.

2.1.2 Metham sodium

Metham sodium (Metam) could be used @ 30 ml. per plant, applying it evenly distributed at 4 - 6 points round the plant. The liquid could be applied either with an injector or by pouring the liquid into "alavangoe-holes". The chemical may be mixed with an equal volume of water. Application can also, be made through drip-irrigation system.

3. Nematode eradication in infested young tea

When premature flowering and seeding and also, any symptoms of debilitation have been observed, the soil must be analysed to confirm as to whether the cause is nematodes. The following treatments could be carried out over a period of 1 - 2 years, until nematodes could not be detected in the soil.

- a. *Tithonia diversifolia* (wild Sunflower)
Plant a row of *Tithonia* for every 2 rows of tea, lopping the plants at 4 - 6 months and using the cut material to thatch the tea inter-rows.
- b. "Neemazal 1% TS" @ 1 l in 600 l of water per ha, repeat at 3-month intervals.
- c. Phenamiphos ("Nemacur 5G") @ 7 g per bush applied preferably in a furrow round the base of the bush repeated at 6-month intervals.

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