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ON THE USE OF LEMONGRASS LEAF INFUSION FOR THE CONTROL OF BRINJAL APHID

In an effort to find out the usefulness of some locally available plant materials as deterrents for pests of brinjal, it was observed that an aqueous extract of lemongrass leaves gave good protection to brinjal plants from aphid infestation. Aqueous extracts of neem and *Eupatorium* leaves; *Calophyllum* and *Hydnocarpus* cake and garlic tubers did not control the aphid. None of these including lemongrass was useful in reducing infestation by other pests of brinjal such as the fruit borer and leaf roller. (Table 1)

The aqueous extract of lemongrass was prepared by grinding 10 gm of green leaf in one litre of water and filtered through muslin cloth. The extract was sprayed as such on the plants five times at 15 days intervals. Counts of major insect pests viz. shoot and fruit broer, leaf roller and aphid were recorded at 10 days intervals. The data were analysed statistically and the mean values are given in Table 1. The reduction in aphid population on treated plants was significant at 5 per cent level.

Table 1
Mean values of different insects on brinjal under treatments

Treatments	(after transformations)		
	Borer	Leaf roller	Aphis
0 Control	1.37	2.12	3.56
1 Neem	1.37	1.37	2.97
2 Eupatorium	1.50	1.87	2.87
3 Calophyllum	1.87	1.00	2.78
4 Hydnocarpus	1.72	1.37	2.89
5 Garlic	1.37	1.50	2.90
6 Lemongrass	1.57	1.21	0.30
	Not significant	Not significant	significant
	Critical difference		0.367

സംഗ്രഹം

ഇഞ്ചിപ്പുല്ല പത്തുഗ്രാം ഒരു ലിറ്റർ വെള്ളത്തിൽ എന്ന തോതിൽ ചതച്ചു കലക്കി അരിച്ചെടുത്ത വെള്ളം കത്തിരി (വഴുതിന) ചെടികളിൽ തളിച്ചാൽ അറവയുടെ മുഞ്ഞബാധ ഫലപ്രദമായി തടയാമെന്നു കണ്ടു. വഴുതിനയുടെ മറ്റു കച്ചുകൾക്കിടങ്ങും ഈ പ്രയോഗം കൊണ്ടു തടയപ്പെട്ടില്ല.

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