

Papaya meal bug

Severe threat to all plants

MANOJ DISSANAYAKE
Section Head- Plant Production
Royal Botanic Gardens,
Peradeniya.

Many plants are under a terrible attack as a little hemipteran mealy bug is rapidly spreading throughout the island and destroying the fruits and other plants.

This damage was first reported from the Gampaha and Colombo districts, but now it's been reported from the whole countryside. If no action is taken a lot of damage and harm can come to all commercial and ornamental plants cultivated.

Papaya meal bug

This papaya mealy bug is a small hemipteran that attack several genera of cash plants like papaya, avocado, citrus, cotton, tomato, pepper, beans, peas, sweet potato, mango, jak, as well as flower plants like hibiscus, rose, plumeria, plumbago, jatropha and oleander. Papaya mealy bug is polyphagous and has been recorded on over fifty five host plants that are very important commercial crops.

This harmful insect was discovered in Palm Beach countries in Florida in 1998 and subsequently spread rapidly to several other countries. However, this bug is believed to be native of Mexico.

This severe bug can easily be identified even by a little child because of its outer white appearance.



Papaya meal bug and its doings.

The bug is waxy and observed as clusters of cotton like mass on the above ground portion of the plants.

The adult female is yellow and is covered with white waxy coating as well. Because of the white colour one can easily identify the bugs just before they start damaging the plants.

Prevention

One should keep a keen eye and observe daily the plants they have cultivated in their home garden and if there is any simple doubt about this bug, immediately take action to control it.

This papaya bug feeds on the sap of plants by inserting its stylets into the epidermis of the leaf as well as into the fruit and stem. In doing so it injects a toxic substance into the leaves. The final

result is chlorosis, plant stunting, leaf deformation, early leaf and fruit drop, a heavy build up of honeydew and death.

Early detection

"If we can identify its preliminary developing stage on plants we can easily manage this bug by physical methods like moving, cutting or removing the damaged parts of the plants and burn them using petrol or kerosene", Royal Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya Plant Production section head Manoj Dissanayake said.

One must use high pressure water stroke on the damaged areas of the plant and wash out the bugs and its colonies. Other methods are, mix two teaspoons of detergent soap powder and one tea spoon of kerosene oil with one liter of pure water and apply well to the aerial parts of the plants. This method is most suitable for the foliage plants, and you can use gum tape or gees applied to the films around the stem as well, he said.

There are a number of chemical products available to control the mealy bugs. But before using these treatments, it's advisory to get authorized instructions and think twice about the bio natural balance of the papaya mealy bug. However active ingredients of Dimethoate, Carbaryl, Chlorpyrifos, and diazinon are some suitable insecticides.



PIB (Pets in Black)



We're feelin the heat as well



Safety first



Friends come in all types

The Funny Corner



Tweety and Sylvester



King Julian...naaaa!

Serendipity Festival of flowers XVI

The members of the Shri Lanka and Floral Art Society will hold their annual flower arrangement exhibition on May 3 and 4, 2009 at the Lower Crystal Room, Hotel Taj Samudra from 10.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

There will be many exhibits of Ikebana local and western style arrangements. Demonstrations in the art of Ikebana and Western flower arranging will be held at 5.30 p.m.

Anyone who has been interested in flower arranging knows that an encounter with the beauties of nature can affect the observer and influence one's inner life. Take time away and appreciate the creative talents of a group of ladies, which will help



One of the items that will be on display at Serendipity.

calm the soul for a while, when conflict looms over the country.

Proceeds from this exhibition will go towards helping the observer and influence one's inner life. Take time away and appreciate the creative talents of a group of ladies, which will help

Save Sandy from a cruel fate

Fate has taken a cruel turn for one Sandy, an 8 year old female Alsatian is the beloved pet of an 87 year old lady.

This old lady has a son who looked after both her and her pet, but now after an unfortunate accident, her son is confined to a wheelchair. This means that Sandy has to be parted

from her mistress and be given a new home. The lady's relative are asking her to "put down" Sandy, which is an unthinkable as Sandy is one healthy and active dog.

Will a kind person who will be able to love and take care of Sandy please come and take her before it's too late? If you are that person please call 2735182 and save Sandy from this cruel fate.



White clove pink Carnation



A mix of Carnations



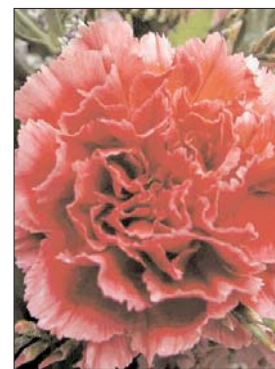
White Carnation



Red Carnation



Purple Carnation



Pink Carnation



Yellow Carnation

Carnations and its definitions

Dianthus caryophyllus (Clove Pink) is a species of Dianthus and is the wild ancestor of the garden Carnation. It is an herbaceous perennial plant growing to 80 cm tall. The leaves are glaucous greyish green to blue-green, slender, up to 15 cm long.

The flowers are produced singly or up to five together and are 3-5 cm in diameter with a lovely fragrance. The original natural colour of the flower is bright pinkish-purple, but comes in other colours including red, white, yellow and green.

It is the national flower of Spain, and the provincial flower of the autonomous community of the Balearic Islands.

Symbol

It is also the symbol of the Portuguese Carnation Revolution. To honour William McKinley, Ohio Governor and U.S. President who was assassinated in 1901 and who regularly wore a scarlet carnation on his lapel the scarlet carnation was declared the state flower of Ohio.

White Carnation is the official flower of the fraternal

worn on special occasions, especially Mother's Day and weddings and were known as "Love's Flower" in ancient Rome. In Korea, red and pink Carnations are used for showing their love and gratitude toward their parents on Parents Day. Sometimes, the parents wear corsage of Carnations on their left chest on Parents Day.

Definition

Even on Teacher's Day which falls on May 15, people express their admiration and gratitude to their teachers with Carnations, as the meaning of the flower is defined as admiration, love, and gratitude.

Mostly, Carnations express love, fascination, and distinction, though there are many variations dependent on the colour. Light red Carnations represent admiration, while dark red denotes deep love and affection. White Carnations represent pure love and good luck, while striped Carnations symbolize regret that a love cannot be shared.

White Carnation is the official flower of the fraternal

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Caryophyllales
Family: Caryophyllaceae
Genus: Dianthus
Species: *D. caryophyllus*

nity Delta Sigma Phi. Green carnations are for St. Patrick's Day and were famously worn by the Irish writer Oscar Wilde. Purple carnations indicate capriciousness. In France, it is a traditional funeral flower, given in condolence for the death of a loved one.

Pink carnations have the most symbolic and historical significance. According to a Christian legend, carnations first appeared on Earth as Jesus carried the Cross. The Virgin Mary shed tears at Jesus' plight, and carnations sprang up from where her tears fell.

In 1907 Anna Jarvis chose a carnation as the emblem of Mother's Day because it was the favourite flower of her mother. This tradition is now observed in the United States and Canada on the second Sunday in May. Ann Jarvis

chose the white carnation because she wanted to represent the purity of a mother's love.

The carnation is the birth flower for those born in the month of January. In some cultures, however especially France and Francophone culture the carnation symbolises misfortune and bad luck. Some scholars believe that the name Carnation comes from coronation or corone as it was one of the flowers used in Greek ceremonial crowns.

Origin

Others think the name stems from the Latin *caro* of *carnis* which means flesh and which refers to the original colour of the flower, or *incarnatio* (incarnation), which refers to the incarnation of God made flesh.

Although originally applied to the species *Dianthus caryophyllus*, the name Carnation is also often applied to some of the other species of *Dianthus*, and more particularly to garden hybrids between *D. caryophyllus* and other species in the genus. Source: Wikipedia