

Avocado Systates Weevil (*Systates spp.*)

KALRO E-mimea Plant Clinic

KALRO/NAVCDP Factsheet No. 196/2024

Other crops:

Mango, guava, citrus, pigeon peas, and roses



Damage of avocado leaves caused by infestations of systates weevil
Source: Lusike Wasilwa, KALRO

Systates weevil damage on leaves Source: A.M. Varela, ICIPE

Pest Name

Flower Beetle

Description

This is a very common weevil in East Africa. It attacks many crops, ornamental plants as well as wild plants. The adult is a black weevil, about 12 mm long with a swollen, rounded abdomen, and long, thin, elbowed antenna.

Diagnosis/Identification

Symptoms

It is active at night, feeding on the edges of leaves producing a characteristic indentations. During the day it hides in the mulch, at the base of plants or in loose soil near plants. They can be a problem to young plants when present in large numbers.

Conditions prevailing that contribute to success

- Presence of other host plants within avocado orchards
- Low soil fertility and insufficient soil water supply

Conditions prevailing that contribute to failure

- Proper soil fertility and water management

Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

- Handpicking when infestations are not high
- Cultural control – soil fertility management, spray repellants
- Insecticides used when infestations are high – timing is important because the pest mainly feed at night

Note: Agrochemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety measures, particularly the manufacturer’s instructions.

Mandate Centres

More information can be obtained from:
ICRI KALRO–NSRC

Email: kalro.sericulture@kalro.org

Address: P. O. Box 7816-01000, Thika

ABIRI KALRO Perkerra

Email: director@abiri.org

Address: P. O. Box 32-30403, Marigat

KALRO Seed

Email: info.kalroseeds@kalro.org; info@kalro.org

Address: P. O. Box 6223-01000, Thika

KALRO-NARL Kabete

Email: cd.narl@kalro.org; info@kalro.org

Address: P. O. Box 14733-00800, Nairobi


Website: www.kalro.org


Geographic Coverage

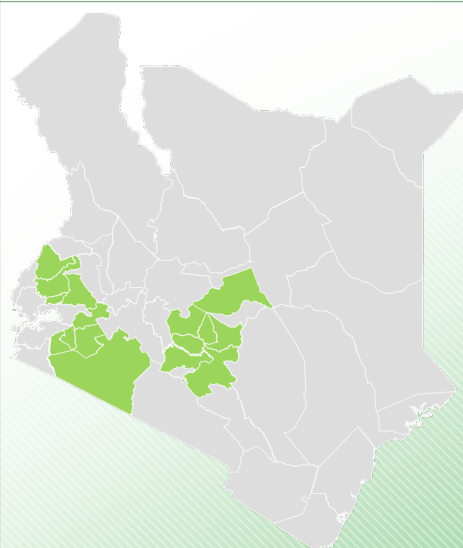
This pest is found in major avocado producing areas in Kenya

Geographic Coverage

The project counties for avocado are Bomet, Bungoma, Embu, Kakamega, Kiambu, Kericho, Kirinyaga, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Muranga, Nandi, Narok, Nyamira, Nyeri, Uasin Gishu, and Vihiga


Counties where pest occurs


Counties with no observation



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References	- https://www.infonet-biovision.org/PlantHealth/Minor-Pests/systates-weevil
Disclaimer: The content of this publication is for general information to avocado farmers and technical staff only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of the information herein without professional advice from crop health experts affiliated to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).	This factsheet was produced by KALRO as part of commercialization of avocado with support of National Agriculture Value Chain Development Project (NAVCDP)

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