



FRUIT PIERCING MOTHS MANAGEMENT

(Advisory August 2021)

Please read this carefully for the management of fruit piercing moths.

I. Fruit piercing moths (*Eudocima materna* / *E. fullonia* / *E. homaena*)

Three different species of fruit sucking moths remain active from August to October and attack only the fruits of *Mrig bahar* crop of pomegranate. Adult males and females of moth pierce the fruits at night; with time, these damaged fruits become soft owing to secondary infections from different fungi and bacteria. Punctured holes on fruits with oozing fruit juice can be noticed from pierced fruits. Later these fruits drop under the plants. The number of pierced holes may vary from 1 to 30 per fruit.

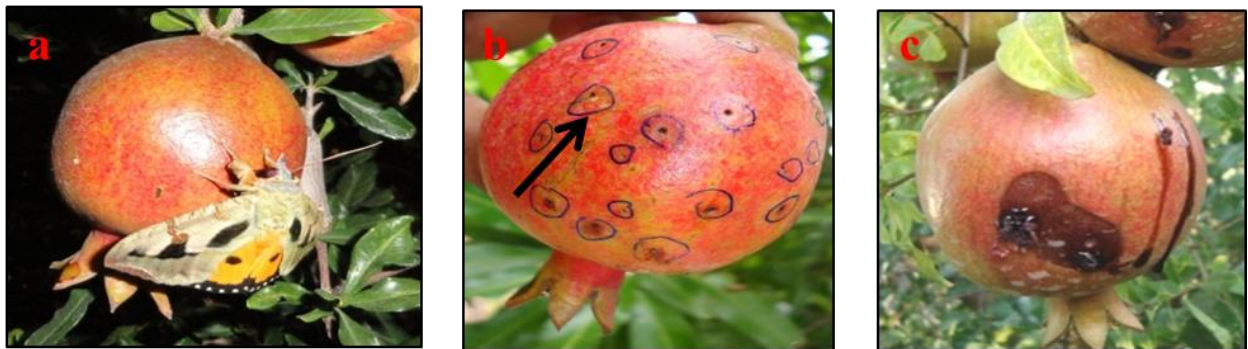


Fig. a) Adult Moth piercing the fruit **b)** Fresh feeding holes **c)** Oozing of fruit juice from pierced fruits

II. Management:

- As the activity of fruit sucking moth remains from August to October avoid taking *Mrig Bahar* crop in pest endemic areas.
Destroy alternate hosts like *Tinospora* spp., *Cocculus* spp., *Lantana camara* and Castor from and around the field helps to check the pest population.
- Dispose of all fallen and decaying fruits which attract the moths.
- Do not remove the pierced fruits as moths again visit the damaged fruits. Thus, other fresh fruits get protected. However, take some fungicide spray to avoid the growth of fruit rot pathogens.
- Under small-scale situations, the moths can be collected using a torch and hand net daily after sunset and destroy the moth by killing.
- Install the 150-200 watts florescent light on each corner of the orchard and each light focusing on each other which will help to deter the moths.
- One-time fruit harvest: When 25% of fruits are ripened, harvesting of all fruits may be taken.
- Maturing papaya and guava plants around the pomegranate orchard will serve as an alternate host to avoid damage to the main crop.
- Ripened banana/papaya fruits injected/dipped with insecticide hanged in bucket traps around the pomegranate crop will attract moths and fed moths will get killed.

- Bagging fruits with polypropylene non-woven white bags or butter paper bags one week before the moth incidence.
- Spraying neem oil 10000ppm @ 3 ml/l water prevent moth entry for 3-4 days.

Note:

- Bagging need to be taken for the maturing and ripening stage fruits and before taking the bagging if bacterial blight or mealybug infestation is found then proper sprays need to take before bagging.
- Farmers should also check the rain forecast while spraying oils as it should not rain for at least 10-12 hours (best 24hrs) after spraying if it rains repeat the spray once the rain stops.
- Use spreader sticker in sprays as it helps in better spreading and sticking the spray solution for good results and reducing toxic effects.

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