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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Evaluation of germplasm against sucking pest in sunflower

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SUMMARY : Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.,) is an efficient oilseed crop with high quality edible oil and wider adaptability. The crop has great potential for diversification of major cropping systems in the country particularly in Maharashtra. However, productivity in sunflower is affected by a large number of biotic and abiotic factors. Among the biotic factors, the attack of insect -pests is the major limiting factor in its successful cultivation. About 251 insect pests are reported to infest the sunflower and among these leafhoppers, thrips, whiteflies, defoliators and head borers are key pest of the crop. In Sunflower, the work for the development of insect resistant cultivar /hybrid is still in its infancy .Therefore, the present study was undertaken to screen the available breeding material of sunflower for resistance to leaf hopper, which may be utilized in breeding programmers for developing leaf hopper resistant hybrids. Field experiment was conducted to screen germplasm lines of sunflower against sucking pests in Augmented Block design using infester row technique of susceptible check (morden). Observations on sucking pests count were recorded as per guidelines of AICRP (Sunflower) project. Among entries screened, thrips ranged between 0.20 to 4.80 throughout season. The entries GMU-919,920,921,956 and 958 recorded lowest population i.e. below 1 thrip/plant, whiteflies remained low in entries GMU-938,943 &967whereas leafhoppers were low in GMU-940.

KEY WORDS :
Sunflower, Screening, germplasmline, Leaf hopper, Thrips, Whiteflies

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