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RESEARCH ARTICLE :

Effect of sowing dates on white rust caused by *Albugo candida* in mustard

SUNITA J. MAGAR, SEETA S. SALUNKE AND A. P. SURYAWANSHI

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SUMMARY : Mustard (*Brassica juncea*) is one of the major *Rabi* oilseed crops containing 30 to 48 per cent oil in India, being next in importance to groundnut, both in area and production, containing 30 to 48 per cent oil. White rust incited by *Albugo candida (*Pers. Ex. Lev.) Kuntz is an economically important and widely distributed disease of mustard and other cruciferous crops grown worldwide causing yield losses to the tune of 17 to 34%. Therefore, present field study was carried out by sowing mustard cv. PUSA BOLD at five different dates, replicated four times in RBD, during *Rabi,* 2014-15. The results indicated that, the crop on 1st Oct. (D_1) exhibited minimum disease incidence (15.84%) and severity (12.75%) while, maximum disease incidence (34.10% and 28.24%) and severity (17.59% and 14.59%) were recorded in the crop sown late on15th Nov. (D_4) and 1st Nov. (D_3), respectively. Staghead incidence was maximum in 1st Oct. sown crop (D_1) (6.70%) with severity (14.62%); whereas, incidence was minimum in 1st Nov. sowing (D_3) (7.08%) with severity (18.95%). Also, seed yield was high in the early sown crop *i.e.* 1st Oct. sowing (D_1) (6.11 q/ha) , compared to other dates of sowing. It indicated that, early sowing recorded less disease incidence and severity and maximum seed yield.

KEY WORDS :
Brassica juncea, White rust, *Albugo candida*, Sowing dates, Incidence, Severity, Seed yield

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Author for correspondence **:**
SUNITA J. MAGAR
Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture (V.N.M.K.V.), LATUR (M.S.) INDIA
Email: sunitamagar7@rediffmail.com

See end of the article for authors' affiliations