

Polyhouse pest management

- Foliar application of *Lecanicillium lecanii* reduced capsicum aphid population (76.39%) followed by *Metarhizium anisopliae* (68.45 %), *Beauveria bassiana* (56.34%) and azadirachtin 15000 ppm (17.49%).
- Foliar application of *Verticillium lecanii* at 1×10^9 and 1×10^8 conidial /ml resulted in a maximum whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) mortality of 60.05 and 58.7% on bean/cucumber/rose after 15 days of the spray. The maximum parasitization (40.59%) occurred when two parasitoids of *Encarsia sophia* were released on nymphs of greenhouse whitefly. The combination of *V. lecanii* and *E. sophia* recorded maximum mortality of 78.3%.
- Foliar application of azadirachtin (15000 ppm @ 3 ml/L) resulted in the highest (79.9%) reduction in rose aphid population and equally good performance (68.8% reduction) with predator *Coccinella septempunctata* released at the rate of 10 beetles/ plant. Besides, application of *Lecanicillium lecanii*, *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria bassiana* (each at 5 g/L of 10^8 conidia/g), were moderately effective 51.2, 36.3 and 31.3% reduction in aphid population, respectively.
- Release of predatory mite, *Neoseiulus longispinosus* at 1:10 predator: prey ratio was the most effective resulting in 74.2% reduction in mite population which was on par with fenazaquin (0.0025%) resulting 85.2% reduction.
- Four releases of anthocorid predator, *Blaptostethus pallescens* @ 20 nymphs/ rose plant under polyhouse conditions at weekly interval was effective in suppressing the rose mite population (26.8 mites/5 leaves/plant) in Maharashtra.
- Release of predatory mite, *Neoseiulus longispinosus* at predator: prey ratio of 1:30 reduced 71% population of two spotted spider mite, *T. urticae* on carnation and on par with Neem Baan (1500 ppm; 3ml/l) in Himachal Pradesh.
- Sprays of *Beauveria bassiana*, *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Lecanicillium lecanii* (@ 2×10^7 c.f.u./ml) along with the anthocorid bug (*Blaptostethus pallescens*) at the rate of 20 bugs / plant caused significant reduction in the Gerbera thrips, *Frankliniella* sp. population after four rounds of spray and were at par with imidacloprid 0.3 ml/l in Kerala.