

MANAGING CYLAS SPP. WITH BOTANICALS IN SWEET POTATO CROP

APPIA-DANQUAH & K OSEI

CSIR-Crops Research Institute, Kumasi, Ghana

ABSTRACT

Four botanicals; lemon grass (*Cymbopogon citratus*), neem (*Azadirachta indica*), garlic (*Allium sativum*) and chilli pepper (*Capsicum frutescens*) cv. Legon 18), and a synthetic pesticide, Dursban EC were evaluated for pesticidal effect on *Cylas* spp. The treatments were mounted on Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) and replicated four times. The pesticidal potential of neem was demonstrated as the combination of neem leaf amendment and neem leaf extract recorded (69, 60 and 68%) lower leaf damage than the control during the 4th, 7th and 10th weeks' of observation. Neem leaf soil amendment recorded the highest total number of tubers which were 24% higher than the control, while neem leaf extract recorded 11% more tubers than the control. The control recorded the highest number of holes on tubers which was three times more than the mean of all the treatments. The combination of neem leaf amendment and neem leaf extract recorded the highest yield of 40.30 t/ha which was approximately 63% over the control.

KEYWORDS: *Allium sativum*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Capsicum frutescens*, *Cymbopogon citratus*, *Ipomoea batatas*