

THE IMPORTANT SUNFLOWER PESTS OF IRAN

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Different important pests attack sunflower during its annual growth, and cause serious loss being estimated round 5-7%.

Research activities carried out in different parts of Iran have shown, that sunflower plant attacked easily by various plant pests as given below:

- Homoeosoma nebulella Schiff

This pest is distributed in the north and northwest provinces of Iran. The leave of the second and third generation attack seeds, feeding on it and causing serious losses.

- Beet Armyworm
Spodoptera exigua (Huebner)

This pest has been observed nearly in all sunflower plantations, the larvae of which feed on the young leaves and decreases the yield.

- Armyworm
Spodoptera littoralis Bois.

The pest has been found in different parts of Iran and the larvae feed on the young leaves of sunflower plant.

- Cutworm
Agrotis segetum Schiff

The larvae of this pest attack the stem of sunflower plant and cause complete destruction of the plant. The activity of this pest is increased in cultivated middy lands.

- Sparrows
Ploceidae

The different species of sparrows, which sometimes appear in enormous numbers, attack usually the seeds and in some cases cause complete defoliation and destruction of seeds. To prevent losses, it is advisable, to cultivate sunflower far from forests, rivers, wells, etc.