

Crop pest and disease control in organic farms



Yellow stickers against white flies, Tuta absoluta and melon fly pheromone traps

Due to the regulation of farming standards, there are few options for organic farmers to manage pests and diseases in their organic crops. Only a small number of active plant protection substances authorized for use can provide limited support to natural and biological control agents in suppression of pests and diseases.

As far as G-BIACK is concerned, healthy soil is the single most important factor for controlling pests and diseases. Maintaining a high soil fertility level and making sure that the nutrients that are required by the plants are present is primary. We teach our farmers to balance the soil nutrients because lack of one may attract different kinds of pests and disease. Use of fully cured Biointensive compost has always worked so well. Correct and timely watering has also shown to be very positive for controlling pests and diseases.

However, if pest infestation or diseases occur, there are methods that can help reduce the infestation, especially of pests in the farm, that are perfectly accepted by the organic standards since they do not require application of chemicals. A good example is the use of pest traps which has proven to be a very successful method by which farmers can reduce the pest population. The tomato leaf miner *Tuta absoluta* is a devastating pest of tomato but can be controlled perfectly using pheromone traps. The same applies to aphids, white flies and melon worm moth.

Using combinations of such practices along with experimentation based on knowledge and understanding of good farming practices will definitely reduce the pest and disease challenges that farmers can face in their gardens.

Visit our website: www.g-biack.org.

Go to Google maps to see us from above by entering: G-BIACK, Thika, Kenya

Donations of any amount help us to reach out to vulnerable families.

G-BIACK is a registered NGO in Kenya, and donations are tax deductible.

Contributions may be made directly to G-BIACK or through Network for Good on our web site.

Or checks payable to Kilili Self Help Project may be written and sent to

260 Marion Ave., Mill Valley CA 94941 USA—no overhead will be deducted, meaning that 100% of every donation will be sent to G-BIACK for our programmes.

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