

Management of flea beetle in grapes

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Flea beetle (*Scelodonta strigicollis*) is an important insect pest of grapes. High incidences of flea beetle are currently being reported in Nashik grape growing region by progressive grape growers. The flea beetle adults can feed on sprouting buds, young green stems and leaves.



Images: Damage symptoms of flea beetle in grapes

The following management strategy may be followed for flea beetle management;

- Remove weeds from inside and around the vineyards. The cultivator may be used to rack up the soil in inter-row spaces to expose and kill immature stages.
- The flea beetle adults tend to avoid sunlight and remain hidden under leaves during day time. Therefore, foliar sprays should be targeted during evening hours.
- Following chemicals were found effective for the management of flea beetle;

S. No.	Name of the chemical	Dose (ml or g formulation per acre)	Present CIBRC registration status for use in grapes	Comparative efficacy	Suggested pre harvest interval (days) based on data of NRL, NRCG, Pune
1	Lambda cyhalothrin 5 CS	200 ml	Registered	Highly effective	30
2	Imidacloprid 17.8 SL	120 ml	Registered	Moderately effective	60
3	Fipronil 80 WG	24 g	Registered	Highly effective	60
4	Methomyl 40 SP	400 g	Registered	Highly effective	61
5	Spinosad 45 SC	100 ml	Not registered	Highly effective	28
6	Thiamethoxam 25 WG	100 g	Not registered	Highly effective	40

Tips on pesticide use:

- Imidacloprid 17.8 SL and thiamethoxam 25 WG have been reported to affect pollinators' activity, therefore, their uses should be avoided during pre-flowering and flowering stage. These chemicals may also affect activity of coccinellid predators of red spider mites which may lead to increase in red spider mite population, therefore, their foliar application should be avoided after flowering period.
- Methomyl 40 SP and Fipronil 80 WG are persistent in nature, therefore, maximum one application before flowering stage should be done.

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