

Sugarcane Mosaic (Viral Disease)

Causal Organism: *Sugarcane mosaic virus*



Mosaic disease of sugarcane has been known for long in many countries. It is continuously observed on the widely grown variety Co740 in Maharashtra although it is not known to have caused any serious damage to yields, due probably to the absence of virulent strains of viruses and tolerant nature of the varieties. Its annual recurrence is primarily through planting of infected seed material and secondary infection is through insect vectors.

Symptoms

- The characteristic symptom of the disease appear more prominently on the basal portion of younger foliage than the older ones. Generally, chlorotic or yellowish strips alternate with the normal green portions of the leaf giving the mosaic pattern.
- When young affected leaves held against bright light we observe yellowish spots of uneven stripes.
- In severe infections, the chlorotic area considerably increases over the normal green and symptoms also appear on the leaf sheath.
- Sometimes necrotic lesions are regularly produced in the parenchymatous tissues of the internodes and entire plant becomes stunted and chlorotic control.

Management

- Roguing of the affected stools.
- Control of insect pests.
- Avoid multiple ratooning of the affected crop.