

**THE ROLE OF SUGARBEET LEAFHOPPER IN CURLY-TOP VIRUS
DISEASE IN FARS PROVINCE**

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Summary

A five years research (1983 - 1987) in southern part of Fars Province, showed that the transfer of overwintered sugarbeet leafhoppers to young plants occurs during the month of April. Winter is passed as mated adult females, being able to lay their eggs whenever climatic conditions are favourable for their activities.

Main peak of population takes place almost in June when the average temperature is 30°C and relative humidity amounts to 15%. The leafhopper vectors belong to *Neolitorus* genus. *N. Haematoceps* and *N. temellus*, with average population density of 75% and 25% respectively. Damage is caused by transmission of virus by the beet leafhoppers, adults and nymphes. Virus spreads by feeding of the leafhopper on the diseased plants and moving to the healthy ones.

At the present time about 80% of sugarbeet plants, in some parts of the Fars Province, are infected with curly-top virus. The diseased plants, show the typical symptoms of vein swelling, vein distortion, leaf crinkling and small protuberances on the veins. The crop losses in 80% infected farms has been evaluated about 40% but the decrease of sugar content was not considerable.

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