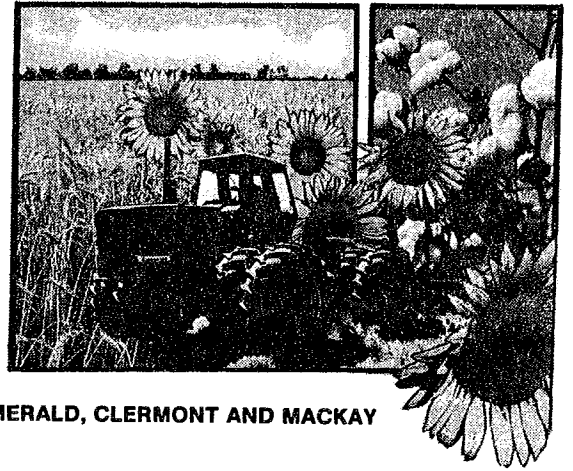


# Central Queensland Advisory Notes



FOR THE DISTRICTS SERVICED BY ROCKHAMPTON, BILOELA, MOURA, EMERALD, CLERMONT AND MACKAY

OCTOBER 1985

AGDEX  $\frac{145}{614}$

## Insect Pests in Sunflowers

SOIL INSECTS: Soil insects attack sunflower seedlings, usually above the soil surface. Applications of "Beetle Bait" broadcast immediately after planting gives good control of these pests.



False wireworm  
beetles



Wingless  
Cockroaches

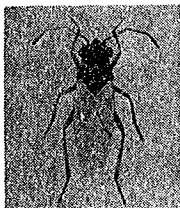


Crickets



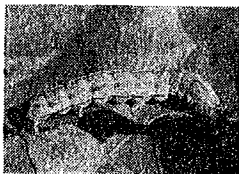
Earwigs

### RUTHERGLEN BUG



Rutherglen bugs damage sunflowers by sucking on heads, stems and seed. This damage reduces yield potential and can reduce oil quality. Spray applications can be used to control these pests either at budding and before flowering or after flowering before the heads turn down. Late sprays, after the heads turn down can be successful under favourable conditions with ULV techniques.

### HELIOTHIS



Heliothis can be a problem in sunflower although they rarely warrant control measures. Eggs are laid on new growth (flowers, branches and new leaves). The larvae hatch and proceed to feed on the head and leaves for 20-30 days before pupating in the soil. Small larvae are easier to kill (and do less damage) than older larvae. Recent research on the Central Highlands indicates that numbers of Heliothis in excess of ten per head do not cause economic damage provided head rots are not severe.

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OTHER INSECTS



Cutworms are rarely an important pest. Larvae can chew through stems at or below ground level. Damage reduces the plant stand. If severe damage is likely, apply insecticide immediately the infestation is observed.

Loopers can defoliate crops but rarely warrant control.



Loopers



Green Vegetable Bug occasionally cause crop damage. When insect numbers (adult or nymph) exceed one per square metre of crop, control measures should be considered.

BEES

Bees enhance seed set by improving pollination. To ensure maximum activity from bees and other insects at mid flowering avoid pesticide applications throughout the flowering period.

INSECTICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUNFLOWER

INSECT PEST	INSECTICIDE	RATE	COST (\$/ha)
<u>Soil Insects</u>			
Cockroaches Crickets False wireworm (adults)	Beetle Bait	2.5 kg/ha	3.85
Earwigs	Beetle Bait	5.0 kg/ha	7.65
Rutherglen bug	Endosulfan ULV	1.5-3.0 L/ha	6.70-13.40
	Maldison ULV	450-900 ml/ha	3.55-7.10
Heliothis	Methomyl	1.5 L/ha	12.80
	Endosulfan ULV	3.0 L/ha	13.40
	Feb 10 - Mar 20 Pyrethroids	2.0-2.5 L/ha	11.70-14.65

COMPILED BY JOHN CHAMBERLAIN  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION AGRONOMIST