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To
The Editor,

Date: 30-9-2015

Sir,

I request that the following matter may kindly be published in your esteemed daily:

Emerging Nematode Problem in Guava

In Tamil Nadu, guava is being cultivated in large scale in and around Ayakudi of Dindigul district. In these areas, young guava trees are exhibiting symptoms of yellowing, shredding of leaves, drying of branches, reduced vigour, less productivity etc. On examination of affected trees, root knot nematode was found to be the causal agent for this menace. Further, the nematode was identified as *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, a species of root knot nematode so far not encountered in India. It is considered that the nematode might have spread from other countries through saplings.

The unseen hidden enemies of root knot nematode associated with guava are capable of killing the tress outright within three months after the onset of symptoms. Therefore, the guava growers are requested to avoid nematode affected saplings, removal and destroying of nematode affected trees, applying farm yard manure @ 100 kg, neem cake @ 250g and nematode egg parasitic fungus *Paecilomyces lilacinus* @ 25g and carbofuran @ 60g/tree at early stage of nematode infestation to overcome the nematode problem and to enhance fruit yield.

Further, research on this line has been intensified in TNAU.

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