

Theilai

August 2018 (Monthly advisory note for Anamallais planters)

UPASI TEA RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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WEATHER

The rainfall received at TRI during July 2018 was higher by 67.55 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year. Weather data recorded in July 2018 at the TRF crop weather observatory are given below, along with the corresponding figures for July 2017.

Year	Total Rainfall	Mean Sunshine	Mean Temperature °C		Mean Relative Humidity % at		Mean Wind speed
	mm	hr/day	Max.	Min.	08.30	14.30	km/hr
2018	1536.8	0.51	21.5	17.0	96	90	0
2017	498.6	1.18	23.4	18.0	95	86	0

CULTURAL PRACTICES

Nursery: Grafted cuttings will be prone to the infection by *Pestalotiopsis* attack in the first two months, till the union is formed at the graft interface. It is advisable to check the grafted cuttings at least twice a week and the fungicide, Companion (Carbendazim 12 % + Mancozeb 63 %) @ 20 g in 10L of water may be sprayed to protect the plants. Watering may be restricted to once a week.

Pruning: Estates planning for post monsoon pruning may start the same during the third week of August and complete it by the second week of September. Use of pruning machine either Kaaz Java or Ochiai with a spinning disc is suggested. Generally, a four year pruning cycle is adopted in the district and it would be advisable to go for low pruning (at or below 22 inches) in at least 5% of the area earmarked for pruning. Such a low pruning will be useful to reduce the knots on the branches and banji shoots.

Plucking: If acute labour shortage is there, shear harvesting/machine harvesting may be continued.

Liming: Liming may be done using dolomitic lime in the fields earmarked for pruning. It should be undertaken before pruning and the rate may be determined on the basis of soil pH, rainfall, yield level of the previous year. There should be a minimum of six weeks interval and 15 cm rainfall between liming and NK application and *vice versa*.

Pest control: Present weather conditions are congenial for the buildup of Tea mosquito. The Percentage of infestation has to be assessed by collecting 100 shoots (three leaves and a bud) at random (from the plucking baskets) from each field and counting the infested shoots. If the average infestation is above 5 %

immediate spraying should be done soon after plucking with any one of the following chemicals 1. Quinalphos 25 EC @ 1000 ml/ha, 2. Thiamethoxam 25WG @ 125g/ha, 3. Alike 247 ZC (Thiamethoxam 12.6 + Lambda cyhalothrin 9.5) @ 150ml/ha to contain the population of the pest. The follow-up round should be given at 7-10 days interval in order to achieve better control. Pheromone traps can also be used to monitor and control TMB incidence.

Blister blight: Moderate to severe blister blight infection has been noticed in many estates in the district. Regular assessments of infection will greatly help in planning the control strategies. The spray equipments should be checked for their discharge rate and trouble free running and wherever necessary, the defective sprayers may be replaced with new ones. During spraying, precautions/safety measures should be strictly followed.

Fungicide schedule for the month of July

a) Blister blight

Schedule	Dosage per hectare*	Spray interval (days)
Fields under plucking		
Hexaconazole + Copper oxychloride	200ml + 210g	7
Propiconazole + Copper oxychloride	125ml + 210g	7
Fields recovering from pruning		
Hexaconazole + Copper oxychloride	200ml + 210g	5
Propiconazole + Copper oxychloride	125ml + 210g	5

*Add 0.05% of any non-ionic wetting agent which is certified by UPASI TRF

Grey blight control: Due to continuous shearing/hard plucking severe infestation is noticed in many estates. Shearing has to be avoided in the fields severely infected with grey blight. Companion (Carbendazim 12% + Mancozeb 63%) at 20g in 10 L of water to be sprayed at 10-15 days interval using hand operated knapsack sprayers may be used for the control of the above disease.

Weed control: Spot application of Ammonium salt of glyphosate (Excel mera 71) @3g/L is recommended for weed control.

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