ANTI-PEST PROTECTION OF TWO-YEAR OLD ALFALFA GROWN FOR SEEDS

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Purpose. To evaluate the effectiveness of different insecticides against pests on two-year old alfalfa grown for seeds. The highest seed yield was achieved after treatment 1 with an insecticide containing active ingredients chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha and treatment 2 with insecticides containing active ingredient chlorantraniliprole 200 g/L or lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 0.17 and 0.15 L/ha, respectively.

Key words: alfalfa, seeds, insecticides, irrigation, rainfed conditions.

Introduction. The primary objective of agriculture is the cultivation of crops, production of food for human and domestic animals. With the increase of the world’s population and in order to satisfy its needs, it is necessary to raise the plant performance. Unfortunately, there are pests reducing crop yields intended for human consumption [1, 2, 3]. It is believed that the world produces a sufficient amount of agricultural products that meet the population’s needs, but the pest-induced damage to crops leads to severe economic consequences [4]. For example, the presence and number of harmful insects on alfalfa is a factor determining its seed productivity. Depending on various conditions prevailing in each case in the grass canopy, seed yield losses can reach 30–50% and, in some cases, even more. However, the yield can be significantly increased via timely prevention of losses caused by diseases, pests and weeds [5, 6, 7]. The total insect-induced losses in the yield have increased, and are largely due to changes in farming methods and cultivation technologies.

Effective pest control is very important to minimize damage and, consequently, economic losses, especially in recent years with an increase in the number of warm winters, which are favorable for pest overwintering and development [8]. Different agricultural techniques, sometimes even with growing resistant varieties, do not always ensure desired plant protection, and thus additional control measures, like synthetic chemicals, are needed [9].

However, successful chemical control requires extensive knowledge about the insecticide effects not only on pest (especially vectors) mortality and egg laying, but also on their feeding behavior.

Literature review. Phytosanitary condition of agrocenoses, despite the measures taken, does not improve due to zero or minimal tillage, non-adherence to crop rotations, unbalanced application of mineral fertilizers, insufficient and improper use of pesticides, non-compliance with cultivation technologies [10, 11]. Abate T. and Ampofo J.K.O. claim that there is considerable evidence that pest populations and their numbers are significantly more numerous in monocrops than in crop rotations, while growing two or more crops in the same field simultaneously increases the number of entomophages and usually retains the pest numbers at low levels [12]. Agrotechnological techniques, including site selection, crop rotation, selection of a variety (hybrid) and seeds, timing and method of sowing, can to some extent reduce the numbers of some insects – pests. For example, in a publication [13], researchers reported a decrease in the number of aphids on early-sown wheat. Aheer G.M. et al. [14] showed that sowing time affected the populations of aphids and other pests of legumes. In addition, the number of pests can be regulated by interrow width, plant density and weed control [15]. Forbes V.E. et al. noted that the use of straw and mustard mulch
reduced the populations and the numbers of insects – bean pests by 75% [16]. Moreover, it was shown that sloping plots and forest belts reduced wind speed, complicated aphid migrations and, accordingly, impacted its spread, decreasing the affection of plants by viral diseases [17]. Control of vector insects is a serious challenge, so the choice of the most effective insecticides to control them in different environments is always important [18, 19].

Insects are a huge group of living organisms, but not many of them are harmful to crops. Insecticides used in crop production are selective and, as a rule, destroy all entomofauna [20]. Alfalfa is often referred to as the beginning of the food chain because it supports not only domestic animals and humans, but also many species of wild animals and birds (more than 700) and more than 1,000 species of arthropods, which is very important for the Earth's ecosystem [21].

Alfalfa grown for seeds is severely damaged by pests, both polyphagous and specialized. The cultivation duration and growing period, its high fodder value and hospitable conditions for pest overwintering favor the settlement of pests and increase in their numbers [22]. Holoborodko SP et al.’s eco-faunal conducted studies in the Left-Bank Lower Dnipro Region of the Southern Steppe of Ukraine, in which they determined and systematized the species composition of the biocenosis of seed alfalfa, with an economic assessment. Complex damage to all organs of seed alfalfa is caused by 157 pest species [23]. Alfalfa is damaged at different stages of plant development – from seed germination to ripening. Pests inflict the most significant damage to seed fields, damaging generative organs and seeds. The pest species composition and numbers on seed alfalfa are influenced by weather during the growing period and winter. Therefore, the absence of protection measures or untimely taken measures dramatically reduces the seed yield and the sowing qualities of seeds [24].

It should be noted that pests, which severely damage two-year old alfalfa grass canopy grown for seeds, are alfalfa weevil (imagoes and grubs), alfalfa plant bug, alfalfa seed weevil, alfalfa seed chalcid, alfalfa aphid, and, in some years, beet webworm. The species composition of insects - pests in alfalfa canopy, their numbers and harmfulness change markedly both zonally and during the alfalfa life in one field as well as during the growing period [25]. However, despite the extensive knowledge on the species composition of entomofauna on seed alfalfa, thorough published information on the pest harmfulness and ecology as well as on integrated protection of alfalfa fields against pest communities and individual species is extremely scarce.

**Purpose.** To evaluate the effectiveness of different insecticides against pests on two-year old alfalfa grown for seeds.

**Materials and methods.** The study was conducted in the experimental field of the Institute of Irrigated Agriculture of NAAS in 2017–2019. As to soil and climate, the study site is located in the steppe (Inhulets irrigated massif).

The filed experiments were laid out in split plots. The main plots (factor A) were for water supply conditions (no irrigation vs. irrigation); sub-plots (factors B and C) were for application of insecticides (Table 1). Seeds were sown in wide rows with interrows of 70 cm. The sowing area was 60 m²; the record area was 50 m²; the experiments were carried out in three replications. Alfalfa variety Elehiia was taken. The grass canopy was two years old (sown in spring). Seeds were harvested with the first mowing.

The composition of harmful insect species was determined by surveys using an entomological sweep-net (10 sweeps); their numbers and ratios of different stages were associated with the phases of plant development and weather conditions (temperature, air humidity and precipitation) [26]. The efficiency of timing and numbers of chemical treatments was evaluated by S.O. Tribel’s method [27] with due account for the economic thresholds of harmfulness [28].

Insecticides were applied as follows: treatment 1 was at the budding onset; treatment 2 was prior to anthesis with a mounted sprayer ON-600 with operating fluid consumption of 250 L/ha.

Experimental data were statistically processed in AgroSTAT, XLSTAT and Statistica (v. 13).
Several pest species were found on alfalfa, differing in peculiarities of their development and damage to plants. When the two-year old alfalfa canopy (bud onset)
was inspected before insecticide treatment, the average numbers of pests were as follows: alfalfa plant bug – 3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, alfalfa aphid – 20.0 specimens/10 sweeps, beet webworm – 3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, alfalfa weevil (imago/grub) – 1.0/3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, and alfalfa seed weevil – 1.0 specimens/10 sweeps (Table 2). It is known that the effectiveness of different insecticides against mandibulatates and sucking pests is not the same, so there is a need to assess the effectiveness of universal and binary mixtures of insecticides against the pest complex.

Treatment 1 reduced the pest numbers in the canopy: alfalfa plant bug – by 70.0–93.3%, alfalfa aphid – by 93.0–97.5%, beet webworm – by 80.0–96.7, alfalfa weevil (imago/grub) – by 60.0–90.0%/73.3–93.3%, and alfalfa seed weevil – by 76.0–94.0%, depending on the insecticide.

Table 2  
Pest numbers before and after the application of insecticides and their effectiveness on two-year old alfalfa grown for seeds, (2017–2019 average)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variant</th>
<th>Pest numbers, specimens/10 sweeps</th>
<th>Reduction in the pest numbers, %</th>
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</table>

Insecticide containing active substances chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha was the most effective for pest control (except for alfalfa aphids). It reduced the numbers of alfalfa plant bug - by 93.3%, alfalfa aphid – by 96.0%, beet webworm – by 96.7%, alfalfa weevil (imago/grub) – by 90.0/93.3% and alfalfa seed weevil – by 90.0%, and before treatment 2 (prior to anthesis), the pest numbers were the lowest compared to the other variants.
Treatment 2 helped to reduce the pest numbers in the canopy. Insecticide containing active substances chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha was the most effective. It reduced the numbers of alfalfa plant bug – by 85.0–91.7%, alfalfa aphid – by 85.0–91.7%, beet webworm – by 97.5%, alfalfa seed weevil – by 88.2–92.3% and alfalfa seed chalcid – by 92.5–96.7%, depending on the insecticide in treatment 1 (1-4; 2-4; 3-4; 4-4; 5-4).

Under rainfed conditions and with application of this insecticide, alfalfa seed weevil-inflicted damage to seeds was 0.22–0.28 seeds/pod and alfalfa seed chalcid-inflicted damage was 0.08-0.10 seeds/pod, depending on the insecticide in treatment 1. When irrigated, these indicators were: 0.19–0.24 seeds/pod and 0.06–0.08 seeds/pod, respectively (Table 3). The low pest numbers or their absence may positively affect the development of generative organs and, accordingly, the seed productivity of plants. However, the migration action of this insecticide had a negative effect on the numbers of pollinating insects, interfering with the formation of pods and seeds in generative organs and further affecting the plant performance. Thus, under rainfed conditions, 6.7–7.2 pods/raceme and 2.44–2.69 seeds/pod were formed, and under irrigation, there were 7.6–8.0 pods/raceme and 3.47–4.00 seeds/pod, depending on the insecticide in treatment 1. At the same time, the under rainfed conditions, the seed yield was 330.53–390.61 kg/ha, exceeding the control by 10.54–70.62 kg/ha. When irrigated, the seed yield was 437.63–535.96 kg/ha, exceeding the control by 13.03–111.36 kg/ha.

Table 3

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<th>Variant</th>
<th>Pod number per raceme</th>
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The highest seed yield was achieved after treatment 1 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha and treatment 2 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorantraniliprole 200 g/L and lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 0.17 L/ha and 0.15 L/ha, respectively. With irrigation on this variant, 8.8 pods/raceme and 4.64 seeds/pod were produced, and the seed productivity was 635.16 kg/ha, which was higher than the control value by 210.56 kg/ha. Under rainfed conditions, plants formed 7.4 pods/raceme and 2.98 seeds/pod. Here, the seed yield was 452.48 kg/ha, exceeding the control by 132.49 kg/ha.

**Conclusions.** Insecticide containing active substances chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha was the most effective for pest control (except for alfalfa aphids). However, the fumigation action of this insecticide had a negative effect on the numbers of pollinating insects, interfering with the formation of pods and seeds and further affecting the plant performance, so this insecticide should not be used prior to anthesis (treatment 2). The highest seed yield was achieved after treatment 1 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha and treatment 2 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorantraniliprole 200 g/L and lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 0.17 L/ha and 0.15 L/ha, respectively.

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**ЗАХИСТ НАСІННЯ СОЛІ СОЛІЯНОЇ ЛЮЦЕРНИ ДРУГОГО РОКУ ЖИТТЯ ВІД ШКІДНИКІВ**

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Метою дослідження було виявити ефективність різних інсектицидів проти шкідників на насінницьких посівах люцерни другого року життя травостою.

Матеріали і методи. Дослідження проводили у 2017–2019 рр. на дослідному полі Інституту зрошуваного землеробства НААН. Метод закладки польового досліду – розщеплені ділянки. Головні ділянки (фактор А) – умови зволоження (без зрошення і зрошення); суб-ділянки (фактор В й С) – застосування інсектициду. Посів широкорядний з міжряддям 70 см. Площа посівної ділянки – 60 м², облікової – 50 м², повторення триразове. Сорт люцерни Елегія. Травостій другого року життя (весняний посів), насіння отримане з першого укосу.

Видовий склад шкідливих комах виявляли за проведення обстежень, чисельність – за допомогою ентомологічного сачка (10 помахів). Обробку інсектицидами проводили:
першу – у фазу початок бутонізації, другу – до початку цвітіння навісним обприскувачем ОН-600 з витратою робочої рідини 250 л/га.

Обговорення результатів. Найвищу врожайність насіння отримали на варіанті при першій обробці інсектицидним препаратом з діючими речовинами Хлорпірифос, 500 г/л й Циперметрин, 50 г/л та нормою витрати 1,00 л/га та при другій обробці препаратами з діючими речовинами Хлорантранілпрол, 200 г/л й Лямбда-цигалотрін, 50 г/л нормою 0,17 й 0,15 л/га, відповідно. При зрошенні на цьому варіанті утворилося 8,8 бобів/кістю і 4,64 насіння/боб, а насіннєва продуктивність склала 635,16 кг/га, що було вище контрольного варіанту на 210,56 кг/га. В умовах природного зволоження у рослин утворилося 7,4 бобів/кістю і 2,98 насіння/боб. При цьому врожайність насіння становила 452,48 кг/га, та була вище контролю на 132,49 кг/га.

Висновки. Найефективнішім у боротьбі зі шкідниками виявився препарат з діючими речовинами Хлорпірифос, 500 г/л й Циперметрин, 50 г/л та нормою витрати 1,00 л/га. Але наявність у даного препарату фумігаційної дії негативно позначалась на чисельності комах-запилювачів, що в подальшому вплинуло на продуктивність рослин, тому цей препарат не слід застосовувати перед цвітінням.

Ключові слова: люцерна, насіння, інсектициди, зрошення, природне зволоження

ЗАЩИТА СЕМЕННОЙ ЛЮЦЕРНЫ ВТОРОГО ГОДА ЖИЗНИ ОТ ВРЕДИТЕЛЕЙ

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Целью исследования было выявить эффективность различных инсектицидов против вредителей на семенных посевах люцерны второго года жизни травостоя.

Материалы и методы. Исследования проводили в 2017–2019 гг. на опытном поле Института орошаемого земледелия НААН. Метод закладки полевого опыта – расщепленные делянки. Главные делянки (фактор А) – условия увлажнения (без орошения и орошение); суб-делянки (фактор В и С) – применение инсектицида. Посев широкорядный с междурядием 70 см. Площадь делянки – 60 м², учетной – 50 м², повторение трехкратное. Сорт люцерны Елегія. Травостой второго года жизни (весенний посев), семена получены с первого укоса.


Обсуждение результатов. Наибольшую урожайность семян получили на варианте при первой обработке инсектицидным препаратом с действующими веществами хлорпирифос, 500 г/л и циперметрин, 50 г/л и нормой расхода 1,00 л/га и при второй обработке препаратами с действующими веществами Хлорантранілпрол, 200 г/л и Лямбда-цигалотрін, 50 г/л нормой 0,17 и 0,15 л/га соответственно. При орошении на этом варианте образовалось 8,8 бобов/кістю і 4,64 семян/боб, а семенная продуктивность составила 635,16 кг/га. Это превысило контрольный вариант на 210,56 кг/га. В условиях естественного увлажнения у растений образовалось 7,4 бобов/кістю і 2,98 семян/боб. При этом урожайность семян составила 452,48 кг/га, что выше контроля на 132,49 кг/га.

Выводы. Наиболее эффективным в борьбе с вредителями оказался препарат с действующими веществами Хлорпирифос, 500 г/л и Циперметрин, 50 г/л и нормой расхода 1,00 л/га. Но наличие у данного препарата фумигативного действия
Purpose. To evaluate the effectiveness of different insecticides against pests on two-year old alfalfa grown for seeds.

Materials and methods. The study was conducted in the experimental field of the Institute of Irrigated Agriculture of NAAS in 2017–2019. The filed experiments were laid out in split plots. The main plots (factor A) were for water supply conditions (no irrigation vs. irrigation); subplots (factors B and C) were for application of insecticides. Seeds were sown in wide rows with interrows of 70 cm.

Results and discussion. When the two-year old alfalfa canopy (budding onset) was inspected before insecticide treatment, the average numbers of pests were as follows: alfalfa plant bug – 3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, alfalfa aphid – 20.0 specimens/10 sweeps, beet webworm – 3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, alfalfa weevil (imagoes/grubs) – 1.0/3.0 specimens/10 sweeps, and alfalfa seed weevil – 1.0 specimens/10 sweeps. Treatment 1 reduced the pest numbers in the canopy: alfalfa plant bug – by 70.0–93.3%, alfalfa aphid – by 93.0–97.5%, beet webworm – by 80.0–96.7, alfalfa weevil (imagoes/grubs) – by 60.0–90.0%/73.3–93.3%, and alfalfa seed weevil – by 76.0–94.0%, depending on the insecticide. Treatment 2 helped to reduce the pest numbers in the canopy. Insecticide containing active substances chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha was the most effective. The highest seed yield was achieved after treatment 1 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha and treatment 2 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorantraniliprole 200 g/L and lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 0.17 L/ha and 0.15 L/ha, respectively.

Conclusions. The highest seed yield was achieved after treatment 1 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorpyrifos 500 g/L and cypermethrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 1.00 L/ha and treatment 2 with insecticide containing active ingredients chlorantraniliprole 200 g/L and lambda-cyhalothrin 50 g/L applied at a dose of 0.17 L/ha and 0.15 L/ha, respectively.

Key words: alfalfa, seeds, insecticides, irrigation, rainfed conditions.