

P.43 - Protection of Citrus plants from insects and mites in Georgia

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Cultivation of citrus is one of the strategic important disciplines of Georgian agriculture. The Kolchi lowlands and surrounding mountainous slopes of mandarin, orange and lemon plantations are geographically unique. All parts of the citrus plants are damaged by pests, including the root systems. The following pests are widespread in Georgia: *Dialeuroides citri* Ashm, *Coccus resperidum* L, *Ceroplastes sinensis* Del Guer, *Chloropulvinazia maritimus* Ehrh, *Pseudococcus gahani* Green, *Chrysomphalus dictyspermi* Morg, *Leridosophes gloverii* Park, *Lopoleucapsis japonica* Crek, *Phyllocoptruta oleivorus* Ashm, *Panonychus citri* Meg and many others. Biological control and the use of natural enemies (entomophagous, acariphagous and parasites) offer good prospects for success, and in these cases additional chemical measures will be needed only in some specific occasions. Broad research has been undertaken in Georgia against citrus pests for more environmental friendly protection measures. Their optimisation process will allow the number of chemical treatments to be reduced. According to the calendar, the following activities should be taken into consideration against citrus pests:

- treatment before vegetation in spring (March-April) against Coccidea and *Dialeuroides citri* by the use of mineral oil
- in April, painting trees with a lime, clay and water mixture in areas of *Lopoleucapsis japonica*
- Treatment by Calipso, Buldok and Lepidocidi at the end of April and beginning of May (before the start of mass blooming) in *Toxoptera aurantii* dissemination areas
- In May-June Katan spreading against *Dialeurodes citri*, and Findorus release for *Chrysomphelis diotuspermi*
- from May to September *Rodoli* releases against *Icerya purchasi*
- When needed, releases of *Cryptolaemus* and *Rodoli* in areas where *Pseudococcus gahani* is present.