

Black thrips

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About Black thrips:

- It is an **invasive pest species**.
- It was first reported in **India in 2015 on Papaya**.
- These insects **lacerate the tender leaves** and flowers before consuming the tissues . Lacerations, especially of the flower, impair fruit formation.
- It is **polyphagous**, i.e., it can **feed on different plant species**.
- It feeds on tender flowers, causes large scale shedding of flowers, stunting and malformation of fruits and fruit drop in chilli, leading to severe yield loss.
- In addition to chilli, it damages crops such as **cotton, bell pepper, red and black grams, mango, watermelon**, and others.
- From 2015, the pest has been found feeding on both **agriculture, horticulture and ornamental crops** and widely distributed across Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- **Reasons for its upsurge in India: Absence of natural enemies** of this particular invasive pest in the area of invasion for natural control of the pest species and excessive use of chemical pesticides and

staggered plantings also might be the reasons for their outbreak.

Q1: What is Invasive species?

These are plants, animals, fungi, or microorganisms that are introduced to new environments outside of their native range and, as a result, have a negative impact on the ecosystems, economies, and/or human health of the receiving region.

News: Chilli crop in Karnataka's Ballari region under black thrips attack, again

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/black-thrips/>

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