

Efficacy of four green manure amendments on root knot nematodes

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[Abstract]

The increasing use of chemicals in agriculture has caused great anxiety about their possible side effects on man and on the quality of his environment. It is therefore becoming increasingly important to search for alternative control measures that are economically viable, environmentally safe and that can be used singly or in an integrated pest management programme. Recently much focus has been placed on using soil amendments to control nematodes. Green manure amendments of Neem (*azadirachta indica* A. Juss.) Pimento (*Pimenta dioca* Lind), Oleander (*Nerium oleander* L.) and Scotch bonnet pepper (*Capsicum chinense* Jacq.) were used to compare their effect on the root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita*. Pimento and oleander were the most effective in the reduction of nematodes and also the poorest for plant growth. Pepper and neem had no suppressive effects on the nematode. However, plants grew more vigorously in pepper amended soil, than with all other treatments. Oleander and pimento amendments have the potential for use in nematode control programmes. However, experimentation is needed to evaluate these amendments under fields conditions.