



Greater and lesser yam beetle

Heteroligus meles and *Heteroligus appius*

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Adult <i>Heteroligus meles</i> (G. Goergen, IITA)</p>  <p>Tuber damage caused by the yam beetle (Dr Stephen Kwaku Asante, CSIR-Savanna Agricultural Research Institute)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movement of tubers or setts between countries should be restricted • Planting as late in the season as possible can significantly reduce the damage caused by the beetles • If possible, avoid planting yams near wet areas, along rivers, creeks, or tributaries where the beetles breed • Sprinkle wood ash as a powder on yam setts just prior to planting. Alternatively, mix two parts wood ash with five parts water and immerse the setts in this mixture for 20 minutes, then remove the setts and dry them under shade before planting • Post-sprouting treatments: apply once per week for three weeks, starting 12 weeks after planting, neem extract 5 % concentration • Mulch with the leaves of lemon grass (<i>Cymbopogon citrates</i>) or mosquito plant (<i>Ocimum viride</i>) to repel the yam beetles and reduce the damage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor from planting to harvest for insects and symptoms: • Symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adult beetles burrow into the soil and feed on the yam planting material (setts) as well as the tubers • The beetles leave small round holes about 1-2 cm deep which allow secondary disease infections and cause the tubers to rot • If the attack is severe it can cause the plant to wilt and die • Insect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adult beetles of both species are blackish-brown in colour and shiny; the greater yam beetles are 23-33 mm long and have two prominent lumps on their heads, and lesser yam beetles are smaller at 21-23 mm • Larvae: creamy-white to grey grubs with a curled body and a light brown head • Light traps can be used for monitoring the adult beetles 	

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.