



Yellow witchweed on Groundnuts

Alectra vogelii Kaufiti wamgulu la nyemba

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
 <p>Yellow witchweed flower (Charlie R. Riches, CABI CPC)</p>  <p>Yellow witchweed (Charlie R. Riches, CABI CPC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use clean certified seed to reduce the chance of contamination • Rotate groundnut crop with pigeon peas, maize, sorghum, millet, cassava and Mkanakaufiti cowpea variety in a four year rotation • Uproot the yellow witchweed before flowering to reduce seed bank in the soil • Construct contours and water ways around the field to prevent run off water carrying <i>Alectra</i> seed from Infested areas • After use, clean farm tools such as hoes to reduce transportation of infested seed to clean farms • Avoid grazing animals in <i>Alectra</i> infested fields to avoid spread of the seed • Plant a trap crop of host species like susceptible cowpea that can stimulate yellow witchweed germination and then ploughed and used as fodder for livestock • There are currently no resistant varieties of groundnuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check once a week at the base of the groundnut plant for emerging yellow witchweed one month after planting and throughout the growth period to uproot them before seed set • Yellow witchweed is an annual herbaceous broadleaved plant, 30-45 cm high; single hairy stem, or sometimes branched near soil level. Always growing in association with host plant. • Flowers pale yellow, sometimes with three deep red veins. Leafy when flowering, resembling free living plant • Look for stunted/wilted groundnut crop growth, then observe witchweed at base of plant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate well decomposed animal (khola) manure during ridge making to deter the emergence of <i>Alectra</i> • Uproot before seed set to prevent seed accumulation in the soil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use personal protective equipment when handling and applying pesticides, follow the label recommendations. Do not eat, drink, smoke when mixing or applying pesticides. • There is no suitable chemical pesticides for the control of this weed in Malawi 	



Malawi

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