### Root Knot Nematode on Guava

*Meloidogyne* spp. (Sinhala: "Mul geta Watapanu Haniya" Tamil: Ver mudichchu)

#### Prevention
- Use resistant varieties and root stocks such as Horana White, Horana Giant, Pubudu & Kanthi (all are moderately resistant)
- Use nematode-free planting material
- Do not purchase any plant even with single root knot in the root system
- Use sterilized potting media (e.g. sterilised by steam or roasting)
- Use clean implements and tools
- Do not use previously infested fields for planting
- Do proper land preparation. Deep plough to expose nematodes to sunlight.
- Use recommended fertilizers to improve crop vigour
- Plant with nematode trap plants like marigold
- Green manuring with repellent crop before planting like sunhemp and mustard
- Add burnt paddy husk to planting hole

#### Monitoring
- Regularly observe nursery plants for the characteristic symptom of root knots on roots
- Sample the side roots of mature plants to observe for root knots
- Observe above ground symptoms like leaf yellowing, withering and scorching of leaf edges with purple patches followed by examination of root systems for knots

#### Direct Control
- Avoid surface irrigation from infested fields to healthy fields
- Add compost to the soil to reduce the effect of nematodes (after infestation)
- Remove weeds and infested crop residues to protect nearby health tree
- Intercrop with Crucifers like mustard, cabbage and incorporate into soil (before flowering) to suppress nematodes
- Add poultry manure, cowdung, goat dung, coconut & rubber ponac, neem cake and green manure (Adathoda, Tithonia, Gliricidia, neem & Kalawel) in planting pit as a soil amendment
- Remove infested plants from the field

*Currently nematicides are not recommended for root knot nematode management in guava*

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**Sri Lanka**

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