

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
Answer to Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 6.3

Date: 18/06/2018

From: Mr Gerry Wood

To: Hon. Ken Vowles

Portfolio: Primary Industry & Resources

Agency: Primary Industry & Resources

Subject: Mango Leafhopper

Question

Are there any promising biological control options for Mango Leafhopper?

Answer

Predators (spiders, ladybird beetles and lacewing larvae) will feed on mango leafhoppers and may give some control of immature stages. Overseas parasitoids (mainly Chalcid wasps) have been recorded. However neither parasitoids nor predators have been used for applied biological control.

Several species of fungal pathogen (e.g. *Metarhizium anisopliae* and *Beauveria* species) have been recorded overseas and there are reports from that spraying formulations of these provide control. However trials with one of these, *Metarhizium*, in the Northern Territory (NT) have been disappointing to date with no infected leafhoppers having been recorded. The fungal pathogens work best in humid conditions, but at mango flowering, when leafhoppers are at their most abundant in the Territory, the humidity is usually low.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NT
TABLED DOCUMENTS

Committee: *Estimates*
Paper No: *6.4* Date: *18.6.18*
Tabled By: *Vowles*
Signed: *[Signature]*