

Sugarbeets XX

Symphylans

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Garden Symphylan

Symphylans, *Scutigera immaculata*, rarely build up to damaging levels. Occurrence in the field is likely to be spotty, however, damage in these spots may be severe.

Identification (and life cycle/seasonal history)

Symphylans are fast moving soil arthropods that resemble centipedes. They grow up to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long, have long antennae and can have up to 12 pairs of legs. Their entire life cycle is spent in the soil. They will move up and down in the soil depending on soil moisture and temperature.

Plant Damage and Response

Symphylans feed on decaying vegetable matter and small root hairs on the plant. Roots can be severely pruned with few secondary roots remaining. This stubby root appearance may resemble chemical injury. Damage can result in severe stunting and plant death and most often it is confined to localized spots or patches.

Management Approaches

Symphylans often are associated with fields that have a history of heavy manure use or very high organic matter. Deep vigorous tillage may reduce symphylan numbers, but severe infestations may require fumigation.

Categories: Insects, Sugarbeets, Symphylans

Date: 04/19/2006