



# SYMPHYLA A

*Hanseniella spp.*

## HISTORY

Symphyla (or Symphylans) are present in all districts and on moist soil types. The most severe damage has occurred on clay loam soils in the Herbert region and on coarse-grained granitic sandy loam soil in the Mossman and Tully regions. Symphyla are present all year round.

## DAMAGE

- Symphyla eat actively growing root tissue.
- Small cylindrical pits (0.5-1.9 mm) are dug into soft root tissue.
- Young white roots are attacked.
- Root growth is reduced.
- Damaged plants wilt easily in dry weather.
- Severe damage is sporadic and is mostly associated with planting in May and June followed by a cold wet winter.
- Damaged plant cane is slow to stool out.
- Root mass becomes small and bunched.
- Ratoon crops can be damaged.

## LIFECYCLE

- Symphyla are 5-10 mm long, elongated, white centipede-like animals.
- Females produce long clusters of 10-20 eggs.
- Populations increase rapidly in rotting vegetable matter, such as ploughed-in legume crops.
- Symphyla use natural cracks and crevices in the soil to move to roots.

## CONTROL

- Rapid germination and root growth make spring plantings less susceptible to damage.
- In several instances, drills of cane which had been rolled showed less damage.
- Chlorpyrifos, Lorsban and Chlorfos applied at 2L/ha at planting is recommended for symphyla control.

## **IMPORTANT POINTS**

- Maintain Chlorpyrifos application equipment on the planter in good order.
- Calibrate applicator.
- Read the label on the container.
- Do not operate application equipment under pressure.