

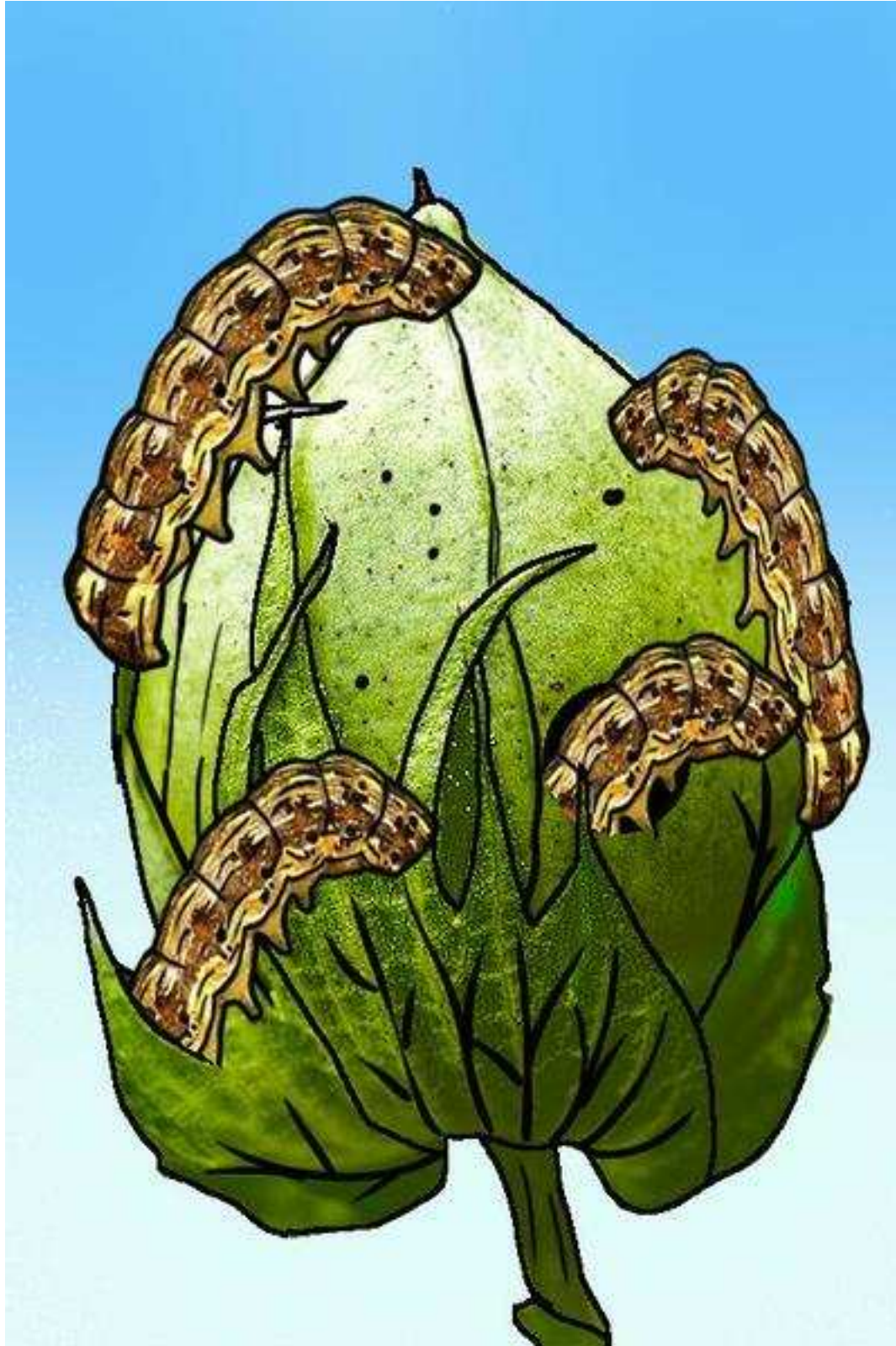
## Pink Bollworm

By IASToppers | 2022-07-22 17:50:00



## Pink Bollworm

A field inspection by the state government noticed loss of 34% produce of raw cotton this year due to the pink bollworm attack in the Malwa region of Punjab.



[ref: timesofindia.com]

## PINK MENACE

- The first pink bollworm outbreak in India was reported in 2013-14
- The pest has a life cycle of 30 days, while the cotton crop in North India takes about 170 days to harvest, say experts
- This means that in crops that have already been in the field for at least 45 days, there is a chance of pink bollworm germinating 3-4 times till the crops are harvested
- Yield loss due to the attack could be anywhere from 30%-90%
- It has heavily infested cotton of Punjab, Haryana, and Northern Rajasthan for the past few years

[ref: Business Standard]

### About Pink Bollworm

- Pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) is an **insect**.
- It is native to Asia, but has become an invasive species in most of the world's cotton-growing regions.
- **Adult** is a small, thin, **gray moth** with **fringed wings**
- Female moth lays eggs in a cotton boll,
- They chew through the cotton lint to feed on the seeds.
- In parts of India, the pink bollworm is now resistant to first generation transgenic Bt cotton (Bollgard cotton) which have a single Bt gene (Cry1Ac).

### Pink Bollworm attack on Cotton

- Can inflict locule damage to the extent of 55 per cent.
- Reduces seed cotton yield by 35-90 per cent.
- Causes rosette flowers, drooping flowers and premature opening of boll, resulting in immature fibre and poorer quality of cotton production.
- **Solution:**
  - **Mating disruption technique**, where the pink bollworm production cycle is disturbed in order to control pest population.
  - Releasing sterile male moths in the fields so that when they mate with female moths, there is no reproduction.
  - Extensive use of advanced varieties of BT cotton seeds, which are naturally resistant to pink bollworm.





[ref: thehansindia.com]