

Monitoring and control of rodent pests in Albania

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Monitoring of the population density and the associated damage of pest rodents was carried out in two districts of Albania. The major crops were alfalfa and potato.

The damage caused by rodents is occasionally very high. The population density was monitored by closing the holes in the evening and counting the active holes early in the next morning. The active holes per 100 m² were counted and provided an index of population density (The *hole blocking census* method). Although, different rodent control techniques are used in Albania, trapping, and rodenticides are the main techniques applied. An economic threshold based on the index of rodent density was used to decide when to treat the populations. We use two different thresholds; in spring it is 5-10 holes for 100 m²; in autumn it is 20-30 holes per 100 m². The monitoring process starts 10 days before possible treatment with rodenticides.

The results show that there is higher rodent damage in alfalfa than in other crops.

Keywords: control, economic threshold, monitoring, rodenticides, rodents