Flower drop in Chilli plant in my kitchen garden

JASVEEN DUA

Dropping of flowers from the plant before the development of fruits is a problem I observed in the chilli plants growing in my kitchen garden. I picked up the dropped flowers to observe its stigma and pollen under foldscope. There was nothing abnormal with the pollen or the receptivity of pollen on stigma.

A Chilli flower showing pollen sticking on its stigma and style
The problem is referred to as ‘Blossom Drop’ in literature and can be due to several reasons:

- Lack of pollination
- Lack of air flow
- Over watering
- Not harvesting the pods on time
- Variable temperatures
- Over feeding