

CONTROL RED SPIDER MITES

TREAT THEM WITH SCHEDULED SPRAYING

What to look for

Red spider mites, also called psinning mites or red spiders, may be green, brown, yellow, red or almost black. They are nearly round in outline, barely visible to the naked eye, and have eight legs when fully matured. In Nebraska, red spider mites may attack many plants. They are especially damaging to spruce trees, junipers, arborvitae, burning bush, most perennial flowers and vegetables such as green beans, eggplant, peppers, tomatoes and cucumbers. Patio plants such as hibiscus are very vulnerable to mite infestation. Their tiny mouth parts pierce individual plant cells and remove the contents. This results in tiny yellow or white speckles. When many of these feeding spots occur near each other, the foliage takes on a yellow or bronzed cast. Once the foliage of a plant becomes bronzed, it often drops prematurely. Heavily infested plants may be discolored, or even killed. Web producing spider mites may coat the foliage with a fine dry silk which collects dust and looks dirty. Most varieties of spider mites overwinter in the egg stage, however some species overwinter as adult females. Activity begins in the early spring. Warm, dry weather favors mite reproduction, so damaging infections usually develop during the summer. In greenhouses and on house plants, mites may live and reproduce year round. Several generations are produced each year and infestations may develop rapidly during hot weather.

Organic Treatment:

- Spinosad
- Neem oil & Triple Action Plus
- Horticultural Oil or Insecticidal Soap

Outdoor Treatment:

- Fertilome Broad Spectrum Insecticide (bifenthrin)
- Bonide Eight (permethrin)
- Bonide Systemic Insecticide (acephate)



Treating Outdoor Plants

Frequent high-pressure syringing with cold water from a garden hose helps to reduce red spider mite infestations on evergreens by dislodging them. Syringing is not as effective on deciduous plants and vegetables because the water must be directed to the under-sides of leaves. Thorough applications of an insecticide will yield better results. A second and third application may be required for extreme infestations.

Treating Indoor Plants

The syringing method can be used in the shower or sink to dislodge some of them, but 2-3 applications of Neem Oil, Spinosad, Horticultural oil, or soap will be necessary. Wipe their sticky webbing with a microfiber towel sprayed with the insecticide, then spray the plant thoroughly, especially under the leaves. Alternate products to reduce resistance, and keep infested plants quarantined while being treated.



Always read & follow label instructions