

Spider mites are very small, almost microscopic pests that feed on many different landscape plants. They insert their mouth into the leaf and ingest the chlorophyll, leaving small, white spots in the leaf. Extensive feeding will cause leaves to turn yellow, brown, or to drop off of the plant. You may even see fine webbing formed by the mites.

Most mites are active during warm, dry weather. Mites can reach reproductive age in one week and lay as many as 100 eggs during her 30-day lifecycle. Spruce mite, common on many evergreens are, however, active during cool weather of spring and fall. So be on the lookout for mites throughout the entire growing season.

Control: Because mites reproduce so rapidly and tend to live on the underside of leaves, repeat application and thorough coverage is necessary. Generally the problem occurs in May, June, July, and again in September. It may take from 2 to 3 sprayings at 7-14 day intervals to control spider mites.

On trees, shrubs use any one of the following pesticides:

1. Horticultural Oil
2. Espoma Earth-tone Insect Control
3. Malathion
4. Bayer Advanced 3 in 1 Insect, Disease and Mite Control

For clover mites around buildings, foundations, patios, picnic areas and lawns:

1. Malathion
2. Eight

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW LABEL DIRECTIONS WHEN USING PESTICIDES.

MERRIFIELD

8132 Lee Highway,
Merrifield, VA 22116
703-560-6222

FAIR OAKS

12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax,
VA 22030
703-968-9600

GAINESVILLE

6895 Wellington Road,
Gainesville, VA 20156
703-368-1919