

(revision date:2/14/2019)

## ***Bean: Spider mites***

*Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.*

### ***Biology***

Spider mites are tiny, eight-legged mites which may range in color from yellowish to green or red. Several species may occur on beans. They typically feed on the underside of leaves, causing a yellowish stippling or speckling of the leaf. Severe infestations can cause entire leaves to turn yellow and drop, sometimes resulting in considerable leaf loss and reduced yield. Spider mite feeding is usually accompanied by webbing on the underside of leaves and between leaves and stems. Mites are worse in hot, dry, dusty conditions.

### ***Management Options***

#### **Non-Chemical Management**

- ~ Provide proper culture. Healthy plants are more tolerant of damage, while drought-stressed plants are more susceptible.
- ~ Predatory mites and insects such as ladybird beetles and green lacewings aid in control of mite populations. Avoid use of broad-spectrum insecticides which kill beneficials.
- ~ Hose mites from plants with a strong stream of water.
- ~ High levels of nitrogen in the foliage encourage spider mite reproduction. Switch to a slow-release or low-nitrogen fertilizer.

*Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!*

#### **Chemical Management**

***IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides***

Apply control measures when mites first appear and repeat applications as necessary.

**Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.**

- ~ Bonide Mite X RTU
  - active ingredient: clove oil, cottonseed oil, garlic oil/powder
  - EPA reg no: 4-04001
- ~ RID-BUGS
  - active ingredient: clove oil, cottonseed oil, garlic oil/powder
  - EPA reg no: 998920-08001
- ~ Safer Brand BioNEEM Multi-Purpose Insecticide & Repellent Conc [Organic]
  - active ingredient: azadirachtin
  - EPA reg no: 70051-6-42697
- ~ Safer Brand Insect Killing Soap Conc II [Organic]
  - active ingredient: potassium laurate
  - EPA reg no: 42697-60
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

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*Images*



~ Caption: Spider mites and eggs under microscope  
~ Photo by: Unknown



~ Caption: Spider mite damage on leaf  
~ Photo by: A.L. Antonelli



~ Caption: Spider mites under microscope  
~ Photo by: L.K. Tanigoshi