



## PEST OF THE MONTH

November

### Spidermite

Spidermites are fast reproducing mites that are very common and extremely harmful. Most common on the west coast are the two-spotted spidermites and pacific spidermites. Females lay eggs on the underside of leaves and as soon as eggs hatch they go straight to work sucking plant juices and sap. Plant leaves start to turn yellow as the chloroplasts are sucked right out, which eventually will cause plants to dry up, turn yellow, then turn brown and die. Spidermites also leave webs around the leaves and stem of plants which are very unattractive. Spidermites reproduce and increase in population best in dry, warm temperatures.

Spidermites are less than 1 mm long and vary in color from black to red when hibernating. Adult spidermites look like black spots to the naked eye.

**Persimilis** is a natural predator to spider mites. In fact spidermite is the only thing that persimilis eat. Persimilis move fast with long legs. Within 2 weeks of introducing persimilis there will be a noticeable decline in the spider mites on the plants. Persimilis like warm (24-25 degree C), humid living conditions in order to reproduce and have their eggs hatch. Humidity of 60% or higher is ideal. Misting or spraying infected plants helps keep humidity higher. Persimilis is best put on the base of the plant as they naturally like to crawl up.

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