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## EC1532 Revised 1955 Red Spider

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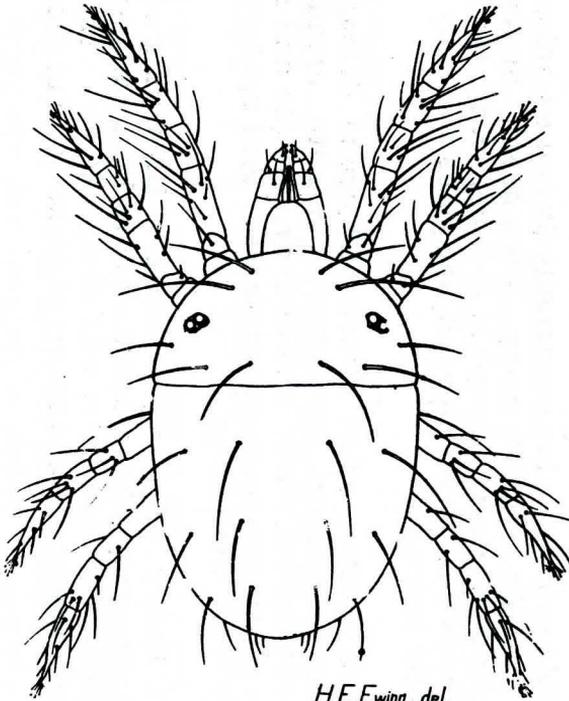
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# Red Spider



H.E. Ewing, del.

**EXTENSION SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
COOPERATING  
W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR**

## RED SPIDERS

Description: Red spiders, also commonly known as spinning mites or spider mites, are, contrary to their common name, often green, brown or yellow in color. They are usually round or nearly round in outline, very small and have eight legs when fully grown. When viewed with a magnifying glass the body appears to be thinly clothed with long rigid hairs.

Host plants: Red spiders often attack and cause damage to alfalfa, apple, beans, blackberry, chrysanthemum, cucumber, currants, eggplant, elm, lettuce, peach, pear, pepper, raspberry, rose, strawberry, tomato and many evergreens. A large number of other plants are frequently infested. Red spiders damage plants by sucking the plant juices from the leaves.

Type of injury: Heavy infestations cause a lightening or yellowing of the leaves of infested plants. In woody plants defoliation follows the characteristic leaf yellowing, whereas herbaceous plants soon wilt down and die. The spiders spin very fine irregular webs over the leaves and stems of plants giving them a "cobwebby", unsightly appearance.

Life history: Adult mites hibernate during the winter and begin laying their eggs in the hot, dry weather of early summer. Eggs are laid on the leaves of plants and hatch in three to five days. The young mites which are quite similar to the adults in appearance require about 10 days in hot dry weather to mature. The characteristic webs afford protection from wind and rain to the eggs and young mites. Several generations are produced out of doors in the summer and the mites will live and breed the year around in greenhouses or on house plants.

Control measures: Red spider infestations are favored by warm, dry weather. In spite of the protection of the webbing, rains tend to wash the mites off of the plants. Wet weather also favors the development of their natural enemies. Effective control may be easily obtained by frequent thorough sprinklings under strong water pressure.

Several commercial spray materials are available that are effective if used properly. Some of these, and amounts to use are as follows:

Material	Amount per gallon of water
Aramite, 15% wettable powder	1 tablespoon.
Dimite, 25% emulsifiable concentrate	1 - 2 teaspoons.
Malathion, 50% emulsifiable concentrate	2 - 3 teaspoons.
Wettable sulfur	2 tablespoons.

Add the material to water and mix well before spraying. Sprays must be applied to the undersides of leaves, as red spider mites usually feed on the lower side of foliage. Applications should be repeated when injury is evident, or mites are increasing.