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EC1570 Clover Mites

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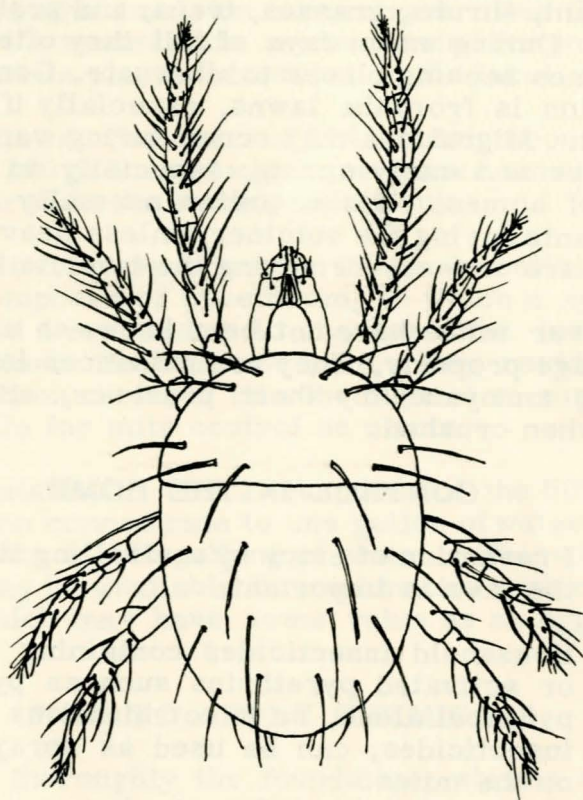
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Clover Mites



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

Clover Mites

Robert E. Roselle

Clover mites are small, reddish colored, eight-legged creatures, smaller than a pinhead. The front legs are long, extending forward from the body.

These mites feed on clover, which is a preferred food plant, shrubs, grasses, trees, and probably other plants. During warm days of fall they often migrate into homes seeking places to hibernate. Generally this migration is from the lawns, especially if clover is present. Migrations may occur during warm periods of winter and early spring, especially on the sunny sides of homes. Clover mites normally remain on host plants during the summer, unless heavy stands of clover are mowed, removing the favorite food plant.

Clover mites have not been known to bite humans or damage property. They are nuisances in the home, causing annoyance by their presence, and staining walls when crushed.

CONTROL IN THE HOME

1. Prevention of entry by controlling the mites in the lawn is important.
2. Household insecticides containing pyrethrum or activated pyrethrins such as pyrenone or pyrexcel alone, or in combinations with other insecticides, can be used as sprays directly on the mites.
3. Vacuum sweepers offer some control by simply collecting mites in the sweeper bag.
4. All controls inside the home need to be repeated as mites continue to migrate. Applications of sprays to window sills or other points of entry may help.

CONTROL OUTSIDE THE HOME

Control outside the home may be difficult, as thorough and repeated applications of insecticides or miticides may be necessary. Sulfur, nicotine sulfate, or rotenone are not always satisfactory. Some of the newer chemicals may prove to be more effective in most cases. New chemicals recommended are:

1. Aramite emulsion concentrate. Use the highest concentration recommended for mite control on plants, as stated on the label.
2. Dimite. One quart of 25% emulsion concentrate to 100 gallons of water, or lesser amounts prepared in the same proportions.
3. Activated pyrethrins. These insecticides are composed of pyrethrum, to which a synergist has been added to increase the insecticide value. They do not have a long residual, but kill on contact. Use the highest recommended rate for mite control on plants.
4. Malathion. Use 2 teaspoons of the 50% emulsion concentrate to one gallon of water, or two pints to 100 gallons of water. This chemical may be available in combination with ovotran, which may have some value as an egg killer.

HOW TO APPLY CHEMICALS

Spray thoroughly the foundation, shrubs near the foundation, and the lawn for a distance of about eight feet from the house. It is essential to treat the lawn area with enough spray to cover the grass. Cold weather will reduce the effectiveness of all sprays.

Applications are best made with power sprayers. If a power sprayer is not available, use a three-gallon pressure sprayer.

TIME OF APPLICATION

Applications of insecticides or miticides will be more effective if made in the fall before migrations begin, but they may be made at any time mites are moving from the lawn. Reducing the clover stand near the home may help reduce the number of migrating mites, but cannot be expected to eliminate them entirely.