

SPIDER MITES

Spider mites are tiny arachnids that pierce leaves and suck out the sap. They build colonies on the underside of leaves.

IDENTIFICATION

Size: 1/50 inch long | **Shape:** Oval | **Color:** Greenish, brown, or orange-red

Spider mites have eight legs and two body parts. They are so small that they are hard to see with the naked eye. You may have to use a magnifying lens to find them.



SIGNS OF SPIDER MITE INFESTATION



Spider mites make webs amongst the leaves of a plant.



Yellow spots form where spider mites feed on leaves. This can cause the leaves to fall.

MANAGEMENT

- Introduce natural predators like predatory mites.
- Spray plants with water every day to knock mites off.
- Check plants regularly for yellow dots or webbing.
- Keep plants healthy. Spider mites attack plants under stress.

Figure 1. Farrell, M. (Photographer). (July 21, 2021). *Spider mites leaf damage* [Photograph]. Reproduced with permission from the University of Minnesota.
Figure 2. San Martin, G. (Photographer). (August 12, 2010). *Tetranychus urticae* [Photograph]. Retrieved October 28, 2021 from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sanmartin/4883560779/>. Copyright 2010 by Gilles San Martin. Reprinted with permission as per <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>.
Figure 3. Farrell, M. (Photographer). (August 2, 2021). *Spider mite damage* [Photograph]. Reproduced with permission from the University of Minnesota.
Figure 4. Cappaert, D. (Photographer). (March 16, 2016). *Tetranychus urticae 2* [Photograph]. Retrieved August 16, 2021 from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tetranychus_urticae_2.jpg. Copyright 2016 by David Cappaert. Reprinted with permission as per <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/deed.en>.