

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Adam Dale](#), NC State University, permission granted.

**Common Name:** Maple Spider Mite

**Scientific Name:** *Oligonychus aceris*

**Order and Family:** Prostigmata: Tetranychidae

### Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	Very small	Spherical; clear or red color; found in bark crevices.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	0.25 – 0.5 mm	Greenish in color; larvae have 6 legs; nymphs (2 stages) have 8 legs.
<b>Adult</b>	0.4 – 1 mm	Reddish brown color; hairs along back; have 8 legs; oval body.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Larvae and Adult: Piercing-sucking

**Host plant/s:** The host plant for maple spider mites are maples.

### Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Cells are ruptured allowing the mites to feed on the cell sap. This can be observed on the foliage as fine flecking or brown stippling. The feeding can also cause the entire leaf or a portion of it to turn yellow, silver, or bronze, which reduces the plant's aesthetic value along with the photosynthetic capacity. After years of damage from mites, the plant's growth and vigor can be reduced. In hot weather the damaged plant tissue will die, allowing the damage to be seen more readily. Because of the stippling that occurs, fall color intensity will be diminished.

### References:

Frank, S. & A. Dale. (2015). Maple Spider Mite, *Oligonychus aceris* (Shimer), Acariformes: Tetranychidae. NC State University and NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension. Retrieved from <http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/maple-spider-mite-oligonychus-aceris-shimer-acariformes-tetranychidae>