

Pest Profile



Photo Credit: [F.C. Schweissing](#), Bugwood.org

Common Name: Banks Grass Mite

Scientific Name: *Oligonychus pratensis*

Order and Family: Trombidiformes: Tetranychidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.75mm	Pearly white to yellowish, spherical.
Larva/Nymph	0.2mm	1 st stage nymph: six legs, light green. Subsequent stages: 8 legs, turn from light to dark green.
Adult	0.4mm – 0.75mm	Eight legs; oval bodies becoming entirely deep green after feeding with the exception of the palpi and first two pair of legs, which are salmon colored. Each side of abdomen has row of dark brown to reddish brown spots. Mites may temporarily turn bright red when conditions are unfavorable or food is lacking.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of Feeder: Piercing and sucking

Hosts Plants: Feeds on turf grasses and also many field crops such as milo and corn plants.

Description of Damage: Plant juices are extracted from the underside of leaves, infested areas are pale yellow turning reddish on the top surface, eventually killing the leaves. During infestations the undersides of leaves will show fine webbing as well.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2013). *Clover and Other Mites of Turfgrass*. Colorado State University Extension.

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Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

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