

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Common Name: Two spotted spider mite

Scientific Name: *Tetranychus urticae* Koch

Order and Family: Trombidiformes, Tetranychidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spherical • shiny and straw-colored • very small
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • larvae are six-legged • colorless • resemble the body form of the nymph • nymphs are eight-legged • looks like an adult but smaller
Adult	0.3 – 0.4 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oval • may be brown or orange-red, but a green, greenish-yellow or an almost translucent color is the most common • female have an elliptical body that bears 12 pairs of dorsal setae • overwintering females are orange-to-orange-red • male is elliptical with the caudal end tapering and smaller than the female • this species has two dark spots, composed of food content, showing through the transparent body wall

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: Rose, viburnum, euonymus, dogwood, pear, raspberry, bean, butterfly bush, marigold, impatiens, and many other plants serve as hosts.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

The two spotted spider mites feed by penetrating the plant tissue with their mouthparts and are primarily found on the underside of the leaf. This feeding causes graying or yellowing of the leaves. Pale flecks (stippling) may also appear at feeding sites because of loss of cell contents. As the infestation progresses, a more generalized bronzing or reddish discoloration often develops. Plant vigor is reduced significantly, and premature leaf drop often occurs on heavily infested plants. When populations are high, a visible webbing appears.

References:

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