

## SPIDER MITES: Facts and Notes | Control | Prevention

### Facts and Notes

The Spider Mite is barely visible with the naked eye, but it can be seen. You would need a magnifying glass to really see one and identify it.

Hot, dry conditions are often the cause of spider mite infestations. The Spider Mite is like the Thrips in that they both consume the chlorophyll from the leaves of the plant, cell by cell by sucking it out. And like the Thrips, the spider mite attacks in numbers, thousands of spider mites can all easily be found snacking together on one plant. This soon causes the plant to lose its ability to photosynthesize, which can leave to death of the plant.

### Types of Spider Mites Commonly Found in KAUST



Red Spider mites



Spotted Spider mites



Bank Grass mites

### Pest Control procedures in managing pests

1. Inspect leaf undersides where cells are pierced and drained for infestation. Many plants have little yellow patches on their leaves from dead cells. White leaf stippling is insect damage.
2. IPM-guided essential control mainly:
  - **Cultural Control-** focus on lowering plant stress and preventing spider mite development. It is found in dry garden areas like footpaths and landscape bed borders and worst on drought-stressed plants, so water them well.
  - **Mechanical Control-** it can be washed off plants like aphids. Rinsing must be done frequently to prevent mites from climbing plants.
  - **Chemical Control-** If other methods fail, administer insecticides in a highly diluted mixture to the affected area in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer, such Abamectin 18EC (*Abamectin 1.8EC*).
1. Monitor the plants condition after the treatment. It is recommended to keep record for future evaluation.

### What you can do Spider Mites prevention at home

- Keep the garden clean and weed free. This will provide fewer opportunities for pest mites to get established.
- Remove plants that are common hosts of spider mites, e.g., wild *Amaranthus*.
- Cooperate with the service provider during treatment activities by keeping yourself and your pets in a safe place.
- Report sightings or request assistance by contacting the Horticulture and Pest Control Department or via C&C Call Center by calling 959 from any landline.