

# MITES

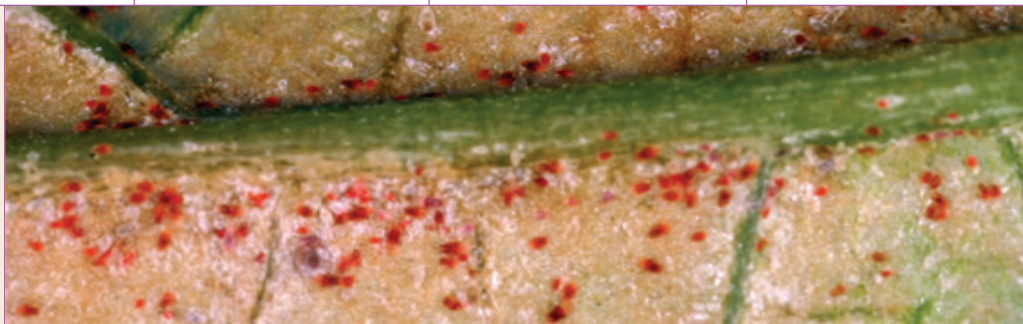
(*Brevipalpus* sp.)

CURRENT AT MARCH 2021

## PEST

| Type  | Frequency | Seriousness | Attention | Stage       | Risk Factors                  | Suitable for fresh sale? |
|-------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MITES | COMMON    | MAJOR       | SPECIAL   | LEAF, FRUIT | Excessive use of insecticides | GRADE 2 ONLY             |

### LEAVES



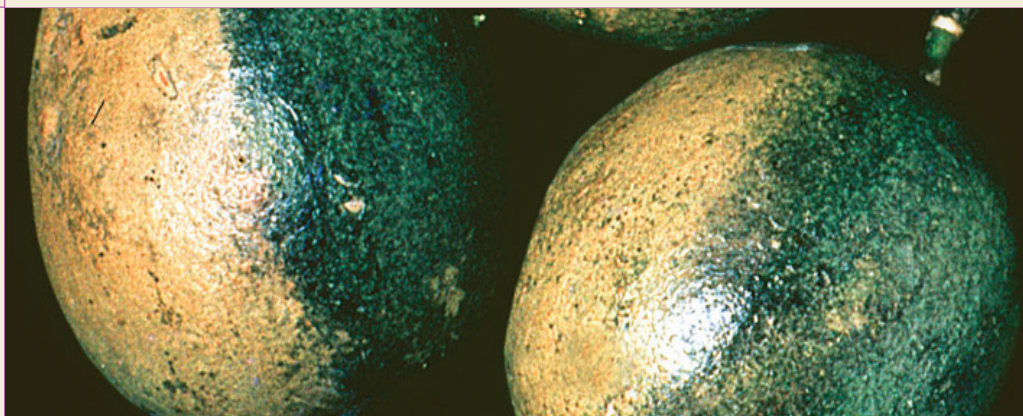
A close up of mites on the underside of the leaf



Mites and eggs on the back of leaf

- Mites favour sheltered living sites and the red-rusty coloured adults and eggs are usually found on the underside of leaves
- Feeding by mites makes the area around the veins turn yellow
- Very small (<0.5mm long) use a hand lens to aid identification

### FRUIT



Damage is usually only seen on one side of the fruit



Adult mites appear as small red spots on fruit

- Mites sometimes move onto the protected inward facing side of fruit where feeding damage is subsequently seen
- Damage usually becomes more obvious as fruit matures, long after the feeding has taken place so it is essential to check for mites regularly

### RISKS

- Mites are usually a problem through summer and autumn
- Large numbers congregate in leaf axils, along grooves in the terminal shoots and leaf stalks and along the main veins of the leaves
- Heavy infestations can result in defoliation and disfigurement of fruit
- Infestations may be caused by excessive or inappropriate use of insecticides
- Severe infestations of mites can result in defoliation of vines

### MANAGEMENT

#### SURVEILLANCE:

- Each month examine 50 vines per hectare, scattered throughout the block
- Check a 200 mm section of lateral along the wire and 5 attached leaves per vine for the presence of mites (rusty-red eggs, nymphs and adults)

#### ACTION TRIGGER:

- If 10 or more vines (20%) are infested, apply a registered miticide
- One or two thorough sprays are usually sufficient
- Be aware that miticides do have a toxicity impact on predatory mites

#### IPM OPTIONS:

- Phytoseiid mites (predatory mites) prey on the pest but cannot control severe infestations
- Phytoseiids can postpone or delay egg production during periods when prey are scarce and when prey availability increases, females lay more eggs, and more healthy offspring are produced during reproductive periods
- More information about the use of beneficial insects can be found at: [www.goodbugs.org.au](http://www.goodbugs.org.au)
- Regular use of Horticultural oil kills eggs, larvae, nymphs and all life stages of soft-bodied insect and mites by smothering them
- Some anecdotal evidence indicates that regular use of Tsunami® with each spray has an inhibitive effect on mite populations

Mite Identification requires a hand lens. A good quality hand lens on a neck lanyard is a critical tool for crop scouting. Expect to pay approximately \$40 for a high quality, high magnification lens.