

## the trouble with spider mites

THE GARDENER'S GUIDE TO CONTROLLING SPIDER MITES

### about this common plant pest

Less than 1mm in size and in virtually as many colors as there are plants, the spider mite typically lives on the undersides of leaves, often spinning protective silk webs and puncturing plant cells to feed. The most common outdoor mite is the Spruce Mite, but it can be found on perennials, shade trees, evergreens, and shrubs. You may also find certain species on houseplants.

### how to spot the problem

Normally the first sign of spider mites is a mottled or pinprick yellow discoloration on the underside of leaves. A simple way to test for mites is to place a white card under browning foliage, lightly tapping or shaking the affected leaves or branches. If mites are present, you will see small, pinpoint spots moving across the card.

### how to control spider mites

**TIMING:** If spider mites are present, control should begin early in the growing season to prevent the buildup of a large population. Mites typically start hatching when temperatures warm to the 40°F mark in early spring. In extremely hot weather, the mites may go into a resting stage, only to reemerge in cooler conditions.

**OUTSOORINSECTICIDE:** Control can be achieved with a miticide or a multi-purpose insecticide such as **Eight**.

**HOUSEPLANTS:**

And remember, our Altum's garden and landscape experts are always here to help. You can pick up the phone and call 317.733.GROW or stop in for expert diagnosis and friendly advice.