Citrus—Citrus Red Mite Monitoring

Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Citrus

ipm.ucanr.edu

Grower: _____ **Block:** _____ **Date:** _____

Comments: _____

From February through April in the San Joaquin Valley, survey each orchard to determine if mites are present. Scan several leaves per tree at various locations and check for adults. In southern California and coastal areas, depending on the local situation, consider monitoring in late summer through fall.

How to monitor in the San Joaquin Valley

1. Sample starting in February through May. As soon as mites are detectible, begin monitoring by collecting a total of 100 fully expanded leaves from throughout the orchard. Collect leaves from just inside the shady region of the tree. Determine the average number of adult female mites per leaf (total mites / 100 leaves) and record the results. Repeat this sampling every 2 weeks until red mite numbers decline below 1 per leaf.
2. On the same leaves, count the number of active stages of predatory mites and calculate the number of predatory mites per leaf (total mites / 100 leaves).

High temperatures cause virus epidemics that reduce mite populations in summer and no treatment is generally required. Note the presence of sickly, virus-infected citrus red mite adults.

1. In San Joaquin Valley navel oranges, economic loss will not occur if citrus red mite densities do not exceed 8 adult females per leaf by 2 to 4 weeks after petal fall.
2. Vigorous, well-irrigated trees can tolerate more mites. Low to moderate numbers are considered to be beneficial as they provide food for natural enemies needed for other pests, such as citrus thrips.
3. In orchards where nonselective pesticides have destroyed natural enemies, treatments may be required in spring to prevent excessive mite populations at petal fall.

How to monitor in southern California and coastal areas

1. Spring and summer populations of citrus red mite generally do not require regular monitoring or treatment.
2. Fall populations can be very damaging in conjunction with the Santa Ana winds if naturally occurring control is upset by nonselective pesticides or dust.
3. About every 2 weeks in late summer, monitor orchards as described above for the San Joaquin Valley.
   If there are more than 8 to 10 citrus red mites per leaf, consider applying a treatment before the occurrence of Santa Ana conditions.

Date	Adult citrus red mites/leaf	Predatory mites/leaf	Virus-infected mites presence/absence	Remarks

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