



It's Really Going Places.

Best Management Practices

Clover Mites

Background: Mites are tiny microscopic eight-legged relatives of insects that feed on plants by sucking juice from them. The Clover mite (*Bryobia praetiosa*) is a nuisance pest inside and on the outsides of homes and has been known to cause significant injury to turf in home lawns. It prefers to feed on clovers but may also attack other herbaceous plants and turfgrasses. The clover mite is often concentrated in the grass areas next to the foundation of a building and will invade a structure, especially around windowsills and doors.

Clover mites are most plentiful in the early spring and fall when daytime temperatures are moderate. They tend to congregate on South-facing walls, sometimes in great numbers, and may enter the home through open windows or holes in the house perimeter. Once inside a structure, clover mites congregate in large numbers in warm areas. Clover mites will not bite, transmit any disease, or feed in the house, but when crushed, they leave a reddish stain. These insects are a nuisance pest and are a concern to homeowners and managers due to their large numbers.

Description: Adult mites are less than 1 mm in length, with a reddish brown to greenish body and four pairs of legs. The unusually long front pair, extending in front of the body, is their most prominent feature. Their eggs are bright red and spherical and are laid on the walls of buildings, on the bark of trees and other plants. Clover mites prefer to be active during the cool spring and fall periods. They usually overwinter in the egg stage. The summer eggs hatch when cool fall temperatures return, and the mites will be active until freezing temperatures cause the mites to go dormant. Several generations can occur during the fall, winter and spring seasons.

Management: Management of clover mites can be difficult once large populations are established. It is important to provide adequate irrigation to susceptible lawn areas, so that overall lawn health is optimum to reduce damage. If an infestation is encountered on a building, close the windows and seal access points to prevent entry into the house. Apply TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide using a 0.06% suspension (1 oz/gallon) to outside surfaces of buildings, making sure to get good coverage of existing mites and treat any potential entry points. In addition, treat a band of soil, turf and vegetation 6-10 feet wide around the building with TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide at a rate of 1 oz/1000 sq ft. Interior applications may also be made when managing this pest as a structural nuisance. TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide will provide good knockdown and residual control of this pest.

If infestations are encountered in the spring, a second infestation may occur in the fall when eggs laid on the building walls begin to hatch. If this occurs, a second application of TalstarOne™ multi-insecticide is recommended. Adequate watering will suppress winter mite population levels. If repeated infestations occur in the same location each year, removing grass and vegetation 18-24 inches from the structure foundation usually prevents mites from migrating into the home.

Always read and follow label directions.

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