

Litchi Mites

Recognize the problem

The adult mites are small, about 1.5 mm, whitish insects which live under the surface of the leaves and are hardly visible with naked eye. Both nymphs and adults suck the sap from the under surface of the leaves and cause brown velvety growth. Pits form and develop into galls. Finally, the leaves curl and dry up.

Background

The attack of mites starts in March and the damage reaches its maximum in July. Vigorously growing young trees and new growth of adult trees are mostly affected.

Management

- Monitor the crop so that the mite problem is identified when the mites first attack
- When the symptoms appear, remove and burn the infected leaves and twigs
- Urgently consult with the subject matter specialist
- Chemical Control: Spray with Roger (Dimethoate 30 EC) at the rate of 2 ml per litre of water during the new flush emergence period at three week intervals
- Local practice: Spray cow urine and neem plant extract with the help of broom or sprayer it repels the mites

Lychee leaves affected by mites
(Photo by Scot Nelson (CC BY- SA))



Litchi leaves become fuzzy, curled and deformed (Photo by Scot Nelson (CC BY- SA))



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Eriophyes litchii**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Nepal



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