

Leaf-Stippling Pests: Spider Mites

See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>



Adult mite with eggs and a larva

Two-spotted spider mite adult w/ eggs



Spider mite damage of varying degrees on a single leaf. Note the webbing and the mites scattered on the webs.

General Information

1. Most common species on potato:
Tetranychus urticae, two-spotted spider mite.
2. Two-spotted spider mite is common on weeds and crops.
3. Several things can contribute to spider mite outbreaks: a) non-selective pesticides, such as pyrethroids;
b) proximity to certain crops such as corn, alfalfa, hops, and mint, which tend to harbor mites; c) proximity to dusty roads; d) hot, dry weather.
4. Scouting for mites should begin in late June or early July. A hand lens is required for field recognition.
5. If a miticide is used, it must be applied early in the infestation.

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)

Leaf-Stippling Pests: Thrips

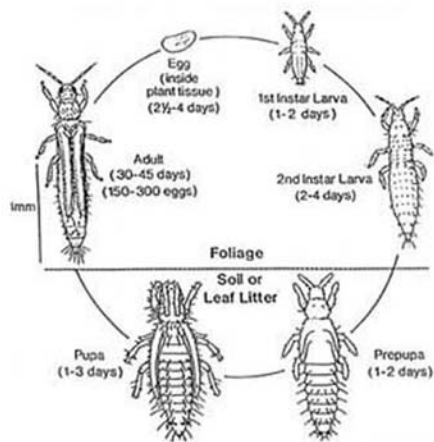
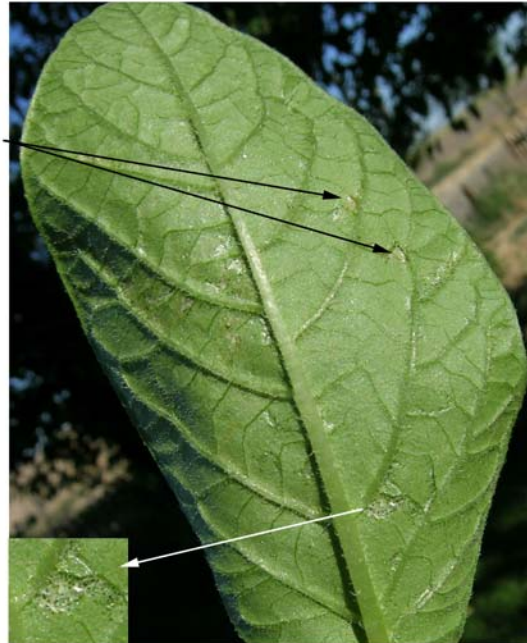


See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>



Western flower thrips

Pockets of thrips damage



Thrips general life cycle



Thrips are very small.

General Information

1. Most common species on potato:
Frankliniella occidentalis, western flower thrips.
2. Western flower thrips has a very large host range, and occurs almost everywhere potatoes are grown in Washington.
3. Thrips feed by draining cells near the surface of the leaf.
4. Potatoes can be colonized early in the season.
5. The factors that lead to thrips outbreaks in potatoes are not well-understood.
6. Large populations can build in nearby crops such as corn, then colonize potatoes.

Washington State Potato Commission (Phone: 509-765-8845)