Major mite pests of Queensland citrus

Ebony Faichney, QDAF, 2022

	Broad mite	Brown citrus rust mite	Citrus rust mite	Oriental spider mite
Scientific name	Polyphagotarsonemus latus	Tegolophus australis	Phyllocoptruta oleivora	Eutetranychus orientalis
Appearance				
Description	Adults 0.2 mm, yellow and round Nymphs are white. Eggs covered in white 'studs'.	Adults 0.18 mm, light-brown, wedge-shaped. Nymphs are smaller and paler. Eggs look translucent (yellow arrow).	Adults 0.15 mm light brown, carrot shape. Nymphs are smaller and paler. Eggs translucent.	Adults 0.5 mm long, reddish, males have long legs. White shed skins are often visible on damaged leaf tissue. Eggs are brownish until hatched, then are translucent.
Damage and location	Grey 'shark skin' on fruit. Twisting of leaves. Prefers the sheltered side of fruit.	Brown russeting of fruit and leaves. Prefers the exposed side of fruit and upper leaf surface.	Brown russeting of fruit and leaves. Prefers the sheltered side of fruit and the lower leaf surface.	Yellow stippling of leaves and fruit. Prefers the upper leaf surface.



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	Broad mite	Brown citrus rust mite	Citrus rust mite	Oriental spider mite	
Damage					
Natural predators	Predatory mites (<i>Neoseiulus</i> spp.)	Predatory mites (<i>Neoseiulus</i> spp.)	Predatory mites (<i>Neoseiulus</i> spp.)	<i>Stethorus</i> spp. lady beetles and predatory mites (<i>Neoseiulus</i> spp.)	
Monitoring	October to December	November to May	November to May	October to March	
Threshold	>5% fruit infested	>10% fruit infested	>10% fruit infested	>20% fruit infested	
Prevention	Use alternate mowing techniques to provide food and shelter for beneficial insects. Monitor nutrition and irrigation. Base decisions to spray on monitoring. Avoid calendar spraying. Rotate between chemical groups. Calibrate and check the sprayer regularly. Avoid bare earth under trees and between rows.				

More information

Smith D, Beattie GA and Broadley R. 1997. *Citrus pests and their natural enemies: integrated pest management in Australia*. Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Faichney et al. 2021. Understanding mites in Atherton Tablelands citrus orchards. Queensland Government.



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