**Red spider mite on Solanaceous Plants**

*Tetranychus urticae*

### Prevention
- Crop rotation. Rotate with other crops such as corn, carrots and chive.
- Mulch with dry grass or bagasse to reduce humidity in the field. Mites thrive best in hot humid conditions.
- Remove all weeds especially host plants that will harbour mites in and around field e.g. Jumbie Tomatoes, Zepina.
- Good plant nutrition—ensure the timely and appropriate fertilisation of crops.

### Monitoring
- Regular scouting of the field at least twice a week.
- Mites are tiny and are very difficult to see with the naked eye. Use a hand lens for detection.
- Mite damage may be observed before the pest is noticed.
- Look for changes in the size and shape of the leaves as the leaves tend to reduce in size and change shape forming a sword like appearance.
- Leaves may also become yellow.
- Mites will be found on the underside of the younger leaves, often at the junction of leaf veins. They can be extremely difficult to see without a lens.

### Direct Control
- Prune to allow light to enter the canopy of plant.
- Remove severely mite infected leaves carefully place in a polythene bag.
- Use overhead irrigation. Mites do not like excessive moisture on their bodies.
- Leaves may also become yellow.
- Mites have many natural enemies so avoid the use of broad-spectrum insecticide when possible.

### Direct Control
- Rotate chemical use to prevent resistance build up.
- Use Insecticidal oils such as Golden Pest Spray Oil or insecticidal soap such as Safer Soap to manage mites.
- Abamectin e.g. New Mectin rate of application -5ml to 4 gallons of water Spray onto new growth.
- Imidacloprid – such as Pronto 35C
- WHO (II), moderately hazardous IRAC Code 18b. Protective clothing is essential for human health during application.
- Golden Pest spray oil- Active Ingredients: (Soyabean oil- 93%). Unlikely to have environmental consequences. If concentrate is ingested drink milk and induce vomiting. Consult a doctor. Botanical Insecticide/Miticide. Safer soap can cause substantial but temporary eye injury. Do not contaminate waterways.

### Restrictions

---

**Grenada**

**CREATED/UPDATED:** April 2014  
**AUTHOR(S):** Lazarus M, James W and Haynes A (Ministry of Agriculture, Extension Division)  
**EDITED BY:** Plantwise