## Cassava green mite

*Mononychellus tanajoa*

### Prevention
- Use resistant varieties if available
- Use clean planting material
- Plant early, at the start of the rainy season, to encourage growth of healthy plants that are able to survive an attack. Cassava plants between 2 and 9 months old are the most vulnerable
- Do not plant downwind from an infested field as the mite can travel via wind
- Limit the movement of people within an infested field as this can spread the mite
- Intercrop with pigeon pea, in double or triple rows, to reduce the damage and also increase yields
- Encourage the presence of predators that feed on mites by reducing chemical use and keeping wild plants that attract the predators (e.g. *Euphorbia heterophylla*)
- Rotate crop with non-host plants

### Monitoring
- Start monitoring regularly after 4-6 weeks after planting:
  - Mites:
    - Green to yellowish in colour and can barely be seen by the naked eye (they look like tiny greenish-yellowish spots)
    - They feed on young leaves and may also be on fresh sprouts of stem cuttings
  - Symptoms:
    - Leaves: chlorotic spots (yellow spotting). Leaves become mottled and then die. Leaves may fall off leaving the shoot tip to look like a 'candle stick' if infestation is severe
    - Roots: stunted bulking, lack of fresh root growth
    - Use a hand lens to look for cassava green mites on the underside of leaves, along the veins and close to the base of the leaf. Mite populations increase on the young leaves in the early part of the dry season
    - Symptoms can look similar to that of cassava mosaic virus (CMV), but CMV causes larger greenish-yellowish patches and leaf distortion

### Direct Control
- During the growing period and after harvest, destroy the infested stems outside of the field (the mite can survive on cassava cuttings for up to 60 days)
- Release natural enemies available in your country such as predatory mites *Typhlodromalus manihoti* and *T. aripo* or predatory insects such as *Stethorus* and *Holobus (=Oligota)* spp.
- Remove infested tips with hand pruners and destroy outside of the field
- Control the mites by spraying a solution of:
  - 3 garlic plants crushed in 10L of water, with 7gm of powder soap
  - 500 g of onion crushed in 10L of water, with 2 teaspoons of vegetable oil and 7gm of soap powder

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**Note:** Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.