

CMG GardenNotes #119

Optional Homework: Spider Mites on Pine

By mid-summer, several spray applications of the insecticide Sevin (carbaryl) have not controlled spider mites on a row of non-irrigated pines. The trees line the gravel road entrance to Ted’s home in the mountains. The trees are covered in dust from the road. This summer has been hot and dry and the trees are turning brown and appear as though they are dying. **Refer to CSU Extension Fact Sheet #5.507, *Spider Mites*, to answer the following questions.**

1. What is the plant?	Pine
2. What is the pest?	Spider Mites
3a. Does it cause damage?	Yes, particularly when plants are drought stressed.
3b. Under what situations does the pest warrant management efforts?	When the populations are heavy enough to cause plant damage. Light populations are generally managed with non-chemical controls.
3c. Are management efforts warranted in this situation?	Yes.
4a. Environmental factors contributing to the problem.	Hot weather. Drought.
4b. Mechanical management methods?	Hosing off plants with a forceful stream of water kills mites and may physically remove them. The water can remove the dust that collects on foliage and interferes with mite predators. Disruption of the webbing can delay egg laying as females have to rebuild webs.
5. When are insecticides/miticides applied to be most effective?	As soon as trees show signs of stress and mite populations are detected. At this point in the year it <i>may be</i> too hot to use oils and soaps which can cause leaf burn.
6. What management strategies do you recommend for Ted in this situation?	Do not use Sevin, as it is aggravating the situation. Control road dust. Can the trees be irrigated? Hosed off? Miticides are warranted. Try bifenthrin, oils and others.