



Care Info

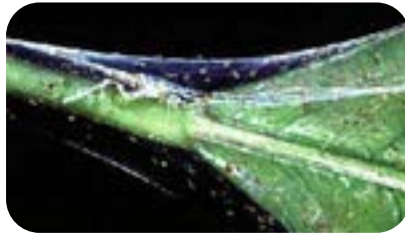


SPIDER MITE PREVENTION IN LARGE TREES

Spider mites are tiny pests that can cause significant damage to a variety of trees and shrubs, including Italian Cypress, Podocarpus, and Junipers such as Red Cedars. They feed on the sap of the tree, causing yellowing of the leaves and eventual death if left uncontrolled.

To effectively prevent spider mites, it's important to know how to check for and identify them. Here are a few tips to help you do so:

- 1. Look for Yellowing Leaves:** One of the first signs of spider mite damage is yellowing of the leaves. If you notice yellow leaves on your trees, inspect them closely to see if there are any mites present.
- 2. Check for Webbing:** Spider mites spin webs on the leaves and stems of trees, which can help you identify their presence. Look for fine, silky webs on the undersides of leaves and along the stems of your trees.
- 3. Use a Magnifying Glass:** Spider mites are very small and can be difficult to see with the naked eye. A magnifying glass can be helpful in getting a better look at the mites and their webs.
- 4. Tap Leaves:** To check for spider mites, tap a few leaves over a white piece of paper. If you see small, moving dots, these are likely spider mites.
- 5. Check for Stippling:** Spider mites feed on the sap of the tree, causing tiny, yellow dots, or "stippling," on the leaves. If you notice stippling, inspect the leaves for spider mites.



Webbing produced by two-spotted spider mites

Implementation of preventative spider mite care is also important in order to protect your trees from these pesky pests. Here are some effective techniques for keeping spider mites at bay:

- 1. Keep Trees Healthy:** The first step in preventing spider mites is to keep your trees healthy. When trees are stressed, they are more susceptible to attack by spider mites. You can help your trees stay healthy by providing proper

care, including adequate water, sunlight, and nutrients.

- 2. Use Neem Oil:** Neem oil is an effective natural insecticide that can be used to prevent spider mites. It's a great option for those who prefer to avoid harsh chemicals. Simply mix neem oil with water and spray it directly on the leaves and stems of the trees. Repeat this process every two weeks to keep spider mites away.
- 3. Introduce Natural Enemies:** Spider mites have natural enemies, including ladybugs and predatory mites. You can purchase these beneficial insects and release them in your garden to help control spider mites. These beneficial insects will feed on the spider mites, keeping their populations in check.
- 4. Keep the Area Clean:** Spider mites often hide in debris and leaves that have fallen from trees. To reduce their populations, it's important to keep the area around your trees clean. Rake up leaves and debris, and dispose of them properly to prevent spider mites from hiding.
- 5. Use Chemical Insecticides:** If you have a severe infestation, you may need to use chemical insecticides to get rid of the spider mites. There are a variety of insecticides available, including ones that are formulated specifically for spider mites. Be sure to follow the instructions on



Stippling caused by two-spotted spider mites

the label when using chemical insecticides, and take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and the environment.