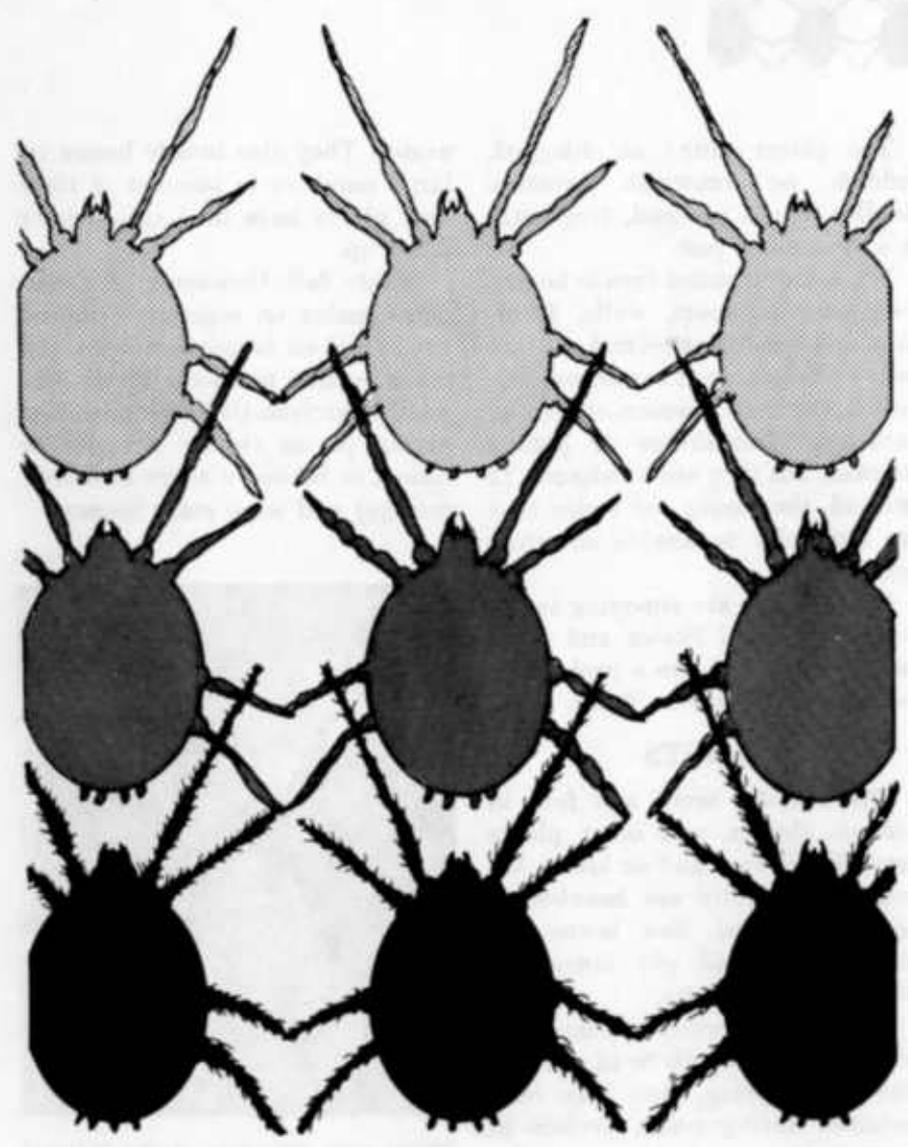


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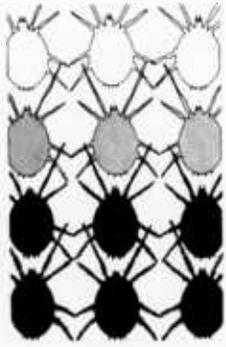
CONTROLLING CLOVER MITES AROUND THE HOME



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

HOME AND
GARDEN BULLETIN
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PREPARED BY
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CONTROLLING CLOVER MITES AROUND THE HOME

The clover mite,¹ an 8-legged, reddish or brownish creature smaller than a pinhead, frequently is a household pest.

When clover mites invade homes, they overrun floors, walls, furniture, and windowpanes and get into beds and clothing. They do not bite people, transmit diseases, or feed on household furnishings or pantry supplies, but they are a nuisance. If crushed, they leave red stains that are especially noticeable on white surfaces.

Clover mites are annoying in the northern United States and Canada. They seldom are a problem in the extreme Southern States.

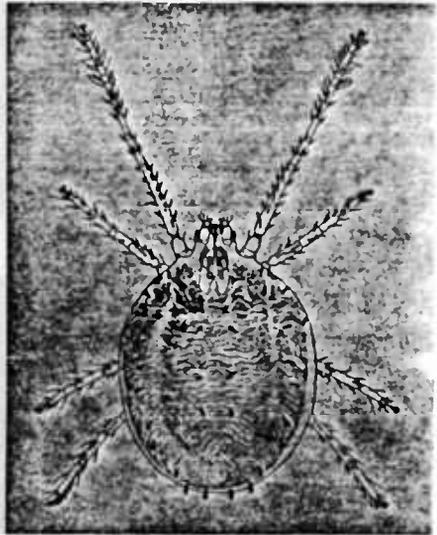
HABITS

Clover mites breed and feed in grasses, clovers, and other plants around buildings and on lawns. Infestations usually are heaviest at new home sites. New lawns and heavily fertilized old lawns are favored by the mites.

While clover mites are most annoying to homemakers in the fall and early spring, they may be a nuisance during warm periods in

winter. They also invade homes in large numbers in summer if their host plants have been cut or have dried up.

In late fall, thousands of clover mites gather on vegetation around homes and on foundation walls and other outside surfaces. When cold weather arrives, they seek protected hiding places (under shingles or siding, or behind window and door casings) and some enter houses.



Clover mite (Courtesy of the National Pest Control Association, Inc.).

¹ *Bryobia practiosa* complex.

While in hiding, clover mites are inactive. In the spring, they become active again; many crawl from their hiding places in search of food.

Outdoors

To prevent or reduce infestations of clover mites inside your house, spray the lower exterior walls (usually up to the first floor windowsills), the foundations, and 5 to 10 feet (1½ to 3 m) of adjacent lawn and plants with diazinon, dicofol, or malathion. Since large numbers of mites may feed in protected parts of the plants, apply enough spray to thoroughly wet the plants. Propoxur may be applied to surfaces of buildings and bare soil around the base of the building but should not be applied to lawns, shrubbery, or other plants.

You can get these materials from stores that handle lawn and garden supplies. Apply them in accordance with directions on the label.

Although you may not see the effects of these sprays for a day or

two, they will continue to kill mites for a week or two after application. It may be necessary to repeat applications at 2- to 3-week intervals if mites persist during the summer.

These treatments should be timed to coincide with the last killing frost in spring and the first killing frost in fall. Since these dates are unpredictable, two sprayings about a month apart may be needed in both spring and fall.

Indoors

Once indoors, the mites are not affected by pesticides applied to lawns or foundations.

Control of clover mites after they get indoors is more difficult. Your best safeguard is to keep them out. Seal cracks around doors, windows, and other places where the mites are likely to enter your house. For chemical control, direct malathion or pyrethrin spray on to mites in cracks and other areas where they hide.

If the mites become numerous indoors despite these efforts, use a vacuum cleaner to capture them.

USE OF PESTICIDES

Pesticides are safe and effective when used as directed. Used improperly they can be injurious to man, animals, and plants. The user is cautioned to read and follow all directions and precautions on the label of the pesticide formulation being used.

The amount and frequency of pesticide use may vary in different sections of the country. This publication is intended for nationwide

distribution. Users of this publication may also wish to consult their State agricultural experiment stations or county extension service for information applicable to their localities, or obtain the latest recommendation if this publication is more than 2 years old.

The pesticides mentioned in this publication were federally registered for the use indicated as of the issue of this publication.

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Use Pesticides Safely
FOLLOW THE LABEL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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