

# Spider Mites

Spider mites are a common pest that appears when heat sets in during the summer months. These plants suck juices from the plants, making the leaves or needles appear dull and unhealthy. Severe infestations can result in the plant's death. The spruce spider mite is the most common spider mite in Missouri and is also one of the most aggressive.

## Signs & Symptoms

- Eggs hatch in 5-7 days with as many as 10 generations per year
- Reproduction is favored by hot, dry conditions
- Spider mites are not insects but rather a member of the spider family

## Life Cycle

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## Management

- Spray a strong stream of water to dislodge spider mites
- Insecticidal soap or horticultural oil sprays
- Miticides may be necessary for heavier infestations



Photos Epic Gardening, University of Minnesota Extension, Missouri Botanical Garden