



WELCOME TO KINGS ONLINE PLANT DOCTOR

CITRUS MITES

Aceria Sheldoni

Citrus Mites, also known as Citrus Bud Mites, are mites that are found on citrus varieties including lemons, limes, oranges, mandarins and grapefruit. It is a worldwide pest that causes the deformation of citrus flowers, leaves and fruit.

The mites themselves are tiny, measuring approximately 0.15mm long, and are almost unrecognisable to the naked eye. When spotted, they are pink in colour and are most active in late spring to early autumn but will also overwinter on plants if not treated.

A single female will lay approximately 50 eggs in her life which will hatch between a 2-5 day period. Individual mites will live up to 10 days in summer and around 20 days in winter.

Deformation on fruit caused by citrus mites is easily recognisable due to its twisted skin. This makes a normal lemon look a little like a citrus 'Buddahs Hand', with abnormal growth at the bottom of the citrus fruit. When cut in half, parts of the fruit may be spoilt.

However, if the fruit is not spoilt it can still be eaten, but the skin is not considered good for zesting.

PREVENTION

Citrus mites are more attracted to weakened plants. Make sure you feed your citrus with [Kings Citrus & Fruit Tree Food](#) between spring and autumn, water deeply through the hotter months of the year.

Mulch with [Tui Mulch & Feed](#) well to help keep moisture within the soil.

TREATMENT

Once fruit is set, damage has already occurred and cannot be prevented or corrected. If a reduction in bud mite populations is desired, apply a miticide such as [Mavrik](#) 2 to 3 months before bloom.

Outside of flowering spraying with [Aquaticus Bugtrol](#) may offer some benefit as well.

When using sprays and chemicals always read the label and follow instructions carefully. Spray in the evening to avoid harming beneficial insects.



CITRUS MITES PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

Shop the Kings online store for all your gardening needs



AQUATICUS BUGTROL CONCENTRATE

An effective, organic, broad spectrum insecticide that can be used to control a broad range of insects. Perfect for use on veggie plants, fruit trees and ornamental plants.



YATES MAVRIK INSECT & MITE SPRAY

Controls a broad range of insect and mite pests, yet will not interfere with honey bees once the spray has dried. As a result Mavrik is excellent for use on flowering plants.



Everything you need!

FOR MORE ADVICE
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