

## PREDATORY MITE SUPPLIERS

**BioBest Canada Ltd.**, (519) 322-2178, [www.biobest.be](http://www.biobest.be).

**Koppert Biological Systems**, (734) 641-3763, [www.koppertonline.com](http://www.koppertonline.com).

**Sterling Insectary**, (661) 725-1832, [www.sterlinginsectary.com](http://www.sterlinginsectary.com).

**Syngenta Bioline**, (805) 986-8265; [www.syngentabioline.com](http://www.syngentabioline.com).

Some products, like TetraSan 5 WDG, work best applied on low mite populations. If your mite populations are high, a quick knockdown is needed and this product wouldn't work.

Akari 5SC or a horticultural oil would be a much better choice since they can knock back high populations. An added benefit to using the oils is resistance can't be built, so you don't have to worry about rotation. On the downside, growers have to be careful how the oils are applied so that foliage won't be damaged or burned.

How should miticides be applied? Most can be classified in two ways: contact kill or translaminar.

With contact miticides, you must have thorough coverage of the mites on the bottom sides of leaves. This can be tricky. Translaminar products can fall on the leaf surface and move down through the leaf profile to the bottom of the leaf where the mites live and feed.

But translaminar products should not be confused with systemic products. Systemics don't always work well on twospotted spider mites. Systemic insecticides normally move through plants' vascular tissues — either xylem or phloem. Twospotted spider mites do not feed on these specific tissues, thus never ingest most systemics.

### Biocontrol startup

If you're going to start a predatory mite program to control twospotted spider mites, you'll need to start backing off products extremely toxic to the beneficials. Doing this will keep your plants from being too "chemically



Many growers use *Phytoseiulus persimilis* to control twospotted spider mites.

hot" when the time comes to release the good mites.

Talstar is a classic example. After applying Talstar, the recommended wait time before releasing beneficials is two months.

Many miticides are compatible with the good guys but, unfortunately, this information is not usually found on the label. Two excellent Web sites to get this information are [www.biobest.ca](http://www.biobest.ca) and [www.koppert.com](http://www.koppert.com).

**SPIDER MITE QUIZ ANSWERS (Quiz on Page 22)** 1. Three days. 2. Five days. 3. Two to four weeks. 4. Several hundred. 5. Females are more oval in shape. Males are more active and triangular in shape. 6. Normally 3:1 females to males.

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PATENT NO. US 7,073,452 B1 DATE OF PATENT: JUL 11, 2006

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