# Spider mites in home gardens



#### Celeste Welty Extension Entomologist November 2018



Two-spotted spider mite



- Often overlooked
- Often mistaken for disease
- Build up in hot dry weather



## Two-spotted spider mite: identification





- Tiny (1/60 inch)
- White with 2 black spots
- <u>8</u> legs

## Two-spotted spider mite: hosts & symptoms

- Tomato
  - -Yellow blotches
- Bean

### -White stippling





## Two-spotted spider mite: hosts & symptoms

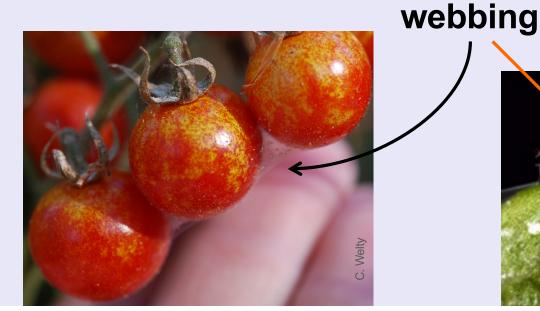
- Watermelon
  - -Yellow blotches
  - **Brown lesions**





## Two-spotted spider mite: diagnosis

- Fine webbing on leaf underside
- Scout by tapping leaf over paper, look for moving specks
- Early diagnosis for good control





## Spider mite management

- Tolerable at low density
- Conserve natural predators
- Overhead irrigation can help
- Soft control:
  - Insecticidal soap
  - Horticultural Oil







## **Two-spotted spider mite**

tested on snap bean leaves, 10/26/05; 3 replicates/treatment, 30 mites/replicate

