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

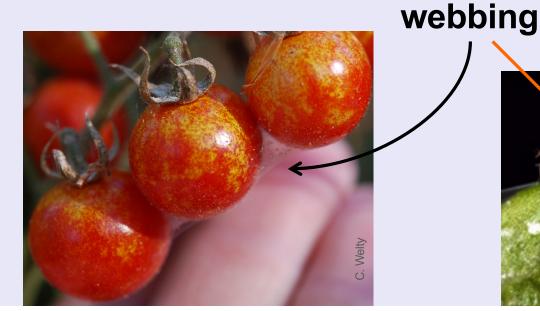
- Watermelon
 - -Yellow blotches
 - **Brown lesions**





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

