

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS ON TWOSPOTTED SPIDER
MITE, *TETRANYCHUS URTICAE* AND YELLOW SPIDER
MITE, *EOTETRANYCHUS CARPINI borealis* ON
RASPBERRY IN WESTERN WASHINGTON

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Abstract:

Yellow Spider Mite (YSM), *Eotetranychus carpini borealis* has been reported for the first time to occur on Raspberry by Dr. Shanks and collaborators in summer 1991. A field survey initiated in 1994 and 1995 showed that while YSM is still rare in Clark and Pierce counties, it is the dominant species in Skagit and Whatcom counties.

In these counties, some fields had more YSM than Twospotted Spider Mite (TSSM), while in others, TSSM is the dominant species. This trend seems to change with time and cultural practices. Moreover, YSM seems to invade the upper leaves of the vines earlier in the season than TSSM and the type of damage caused by the two species are different.

The most dominant natural enemies encountered were phytoseiid mites, mainly *Amblyseius fallacis*. There seem to be a numerical response of phytoseiids to an increase in spider mite immatures populations.

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