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How to Manage Pests**UC Pest Management Guidelines**

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Fig

Fig Mite

Scientific Name: *Aceria fici*

(Reviewed 7/06, updated 7/06)

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE PEST**

The fig mite is a widely distributed, microscopic mite (0.003 to 0.005 inch long) that has two pairs of legs near the anterior end of a wedge-shaped, pale yellow body.

DAMAGE

The fig mite infests bud scales and young leaves. Feeding causes a faint russetting of the leaves, generally in the interior portion of the canopy and may result in leaf drop and stunting of twigs. More importantly, this mite transmits the fig mosaic virus. The virus is not present in the egg stage of the mite, but once acquired through feeding is retained through molts.

MANAGEMENT

To help reduce virus transmission, monitor leaves about a month after they emerge (May) to detect fig mites. Use a 20X hand lens to examine leaves. Treat when foliage damage appears. A second application may be necessary.

Common name
(trade name)

Amount to Use

When choosing a pesticide, consider information relating to [impact on natural enemies and honey bees](#) and [environmental impact](#).

A. SULFUR# 40 lb
MODE OF ACTION: Unknown. An inorganic miticide.

Acceptable for use on organically grown produce.

PRECAUTIONS**PUBLICATION**

UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Fig

UC ANR Publication 3447

Insects and Mites

R. L. Coviello, UC UC Cooperative Extension, Fresno County

W. J. Bentley, UC IPM Program, Kearney Agricultural Center, Parlier

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