

Problem: Spider Mites on Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Hosts: Wide variety of hosts but Burning Bush is the focus of this sheet.

Description: Hot, dry weather often means spider mites. Look for stippling on the upper surface of the leaves as well as some fine webbing on the underside of the leaves. These tiny arthropods (they are not true insects) are often difficult to see due to their size and their habit of feeding on the underside of leaves. If mites are suspected, hold a sheet of white paper beneath a leaf and tap the leaf. Mites will be dislodged and can be seen as tiny specks on the paper that move about.

Recommendations: Spider mite control can be challenging. A high-pressure directed spray is needed to dislodge the mites. Since spider mites feed on the underside of the leaves, the spray is most effective if it comes from below (see reference 1). Plants should be sprayed twice a week under the hot, dry conditions these mites prefer.

Horticultural oils and insecticidal soaps (Safer's, for example) can also be an effective control of moderate infestations. Both types of products help suppress all three life stages: eggs, immatures and adults and they are kind to mite predators. However, only those mites, immatures and eggs actually hit with the spray will be affected. Therefore, it is vital to hit the underside of the leaves. A couple of additional follow-up treatments applied three to four days after the initial treatment may be required to clean up mites escaping initial treatments, or mites that emerged from eggs present at the time of the initial treatments. Spray early in the morning when temperatures are cooler and plants have rehydrated. Again, be sure to spray all surfaces of the leaves.

References:

1. [Water Wands: High Pressure Water Spray Devices for Insect and Mite Control](#), Texas A&M, Entomology Extension
2. [Bugs on Burning Bush](#), Iowa State University Extension News, June 12, 2006.

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