

Russet Mites in Hemp

► Learn to identify and manage russet mites in hemp.

Identification

- Hemp russet mites are very small and cannot be seen without magnification.
- Their appearance is marked by a long, cylindrical beige body and two pairs of legs.
- To date, they have only been found on cannabis plants.
- These mites are only able to crawl short distances.
- They can spread via wind, infested cuttings, or on people or supplies.

Damage

- The mites feed on the outer layer of leaves, stems, or flowers.
- Symptoms include leaf upward curling, dull appearance, plant yellowing or browning, brittle leaves, and leaf or plant death.
- Heavily infested plants may have yellow buds.
- Mite damage can reduce both quality and yield.
- Indoor and outdoor hemp plants are at risk.



Management

- Early detection is key. Use a hand lens to routinely scout several areas of the field or greenhouse.
- Inspect and disinfect cuttings before planting.
- Little research is available on effective chemical or biological controls.
- Use the Farming Basics Mobile App to locate Alabama Extension personnel for questions.

