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## Plum—Sampling for Webspinning Spider Mites with Timed Searches

*Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Plum*

Take weekly samples using the timed search method below, from June 1 to July 15 until the treatment threshold has been reached and a treatment has been applied. Record observations on the monitoring form below. If a treatment is applied on or after July 15, monitoring is no longer necessary. Continue to monitor untreated orchards until harvest.

**How to Monitor:**

1. In each orchard up to 40 acres, conduct a 5-minute search in two separate areas of the orchard, for a total sampling time of 10 minutes.
2. For each 5-minute search, examine at least 2 to 3 leaves on 10 trees. Note presence or absence (+ / -) of spider mites or predators. Sample leaves from both inside and outside the tree.
3. If mite population is spotty, continue to do two 5-minute searches throughout the summer. If you determine the mite population is consistent throughout orchard, one 5-minute search is adequate.
4. Keep records of sample results on the monitoring form on the online version of this publication.
5. Use the guidelines below to determine need for treatment.

Date	Search	Webspinning mites						Predators			
		None	Low	Low/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate / High	High	None	Low	Moderate	High
	1st 5 min										
	2nd 5 min										
	1st 5 min										
	2nd 5 min										
	1st 5 min										
	2nd 5 min										
	1st 5 min										

**Mite Ratings (percent of leaves with one or more mites):**

- **low** (1-20%) = an occasional mite on occasional leaf; hard to find.
- **low/moderate** (21-39%) = mites easier to find but no colonies or webbing and few eggs.
- **moderate** (40-60%) = some leaves without mites, other leaves with small colonies; eggs easy to find but very little webbing.
- **moderate/high** (61-79%) = mites on most leaves, colonies with eggs, and webbing on some leaves.
- **high** (80-100%) = lots of mites on most leaves; eggs and webbing abundant.

**Predator Ratings:**

- **low** = hard to find; less than one predator per six leaves (only a few leaves will have predators).
- **moderate** = easier to find; one predator per three leaves (about half the leaves will have predators).
- **high** = one or more predators per leaf (most leaves will have predators).

**Treatment Decisions (Treat if the rating from at least one 5-minute search indicates):**

- **low/moderate** mite rating with **low/moderate** predator rating, or
- **moderate/high** mite rating with **moderate/high** predator rating.