



KALRO/NAVCDP Factsheet No. 029/2024

# Integrated Management of Red Spider Mites (*Tetranychus huedeni*) in Pyrethrum

## Introduction

Red spider mite is a major pest that attacks pyrethrum and other hosts. It has a great reproductive capacity and can destroy plants in a short time. It is spread by the irrigation water, clothing, implements and wind. Infestation starts on the border rows of the field. The leaves are injured as a result of the mites sucking plant sap causing speckling and leaf fall during dry periods.

## Symptoms

- Look out for tiny red or brown oval shaped pests with 8 legs on the underneath of the leaves.
- There is spinned web on the underside of the leaves.
- Check for yellow clusters of yellow spots on the upper surface of the leaf which may appear chlorotic.
- The leaves become mottled and speckled.
- Take action when 8-10 mites per leaf are seen.

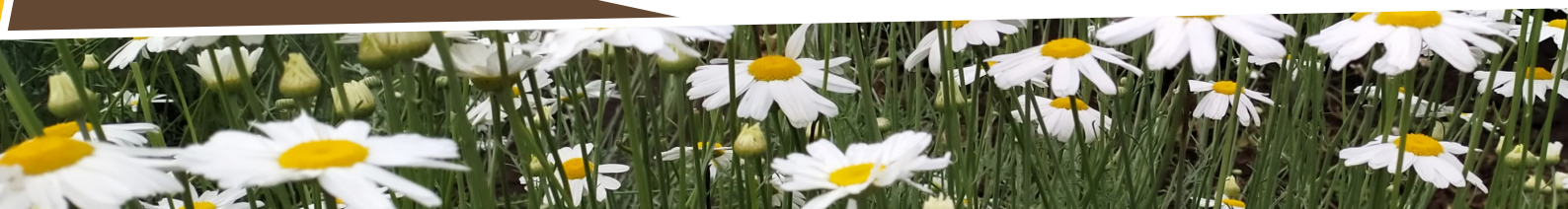



Red spider mite (*Pyrethrum compendium*, 2022)

## Management Strategies

### Cultural practices

- Avoid planting new pyrethrum crop next to an infested field
- Avoid continuous cropping of pyrethrum and so-





lanaceous plants (potato, eggplant, nightshades) in the same farm

- Practise good crop hygiene by removal of infested plants and destroy by burning.

### **Biological Control**

Use soft/safe pesticides such as Nimbecidine, Achook, Neemroc or apply bio-pesticides based on *Phytoseiulus persimilis* (e. g. Phytotech, Spidex, Phytogard) or *Neoseilus californicus*/*Amblyseius californicus*(e. g. Amblytech) at manufacturers' recommendations.

### **Chemical Control**

Spray using Abamectin or Abamectin + Acetamiprid, abamectin-based synthetic pesticides (e.g. Dynamec 20EC, Knockbect 40EC) or Amitraz-based miticides (e.g. Kilitac 20EC, Mitac 20 EC) or Clofentezine-based products at manufacturers' recommendations.



**Compiled by:**Janet Obanyi, Miriam Otipa, Violet Momanyi, Hannah Chore Oduor and Lusike Wasilwa

**Edited by:** Nyabundi, K.W., Mukundi, K.T., Maina, P., Wanyama, H.N., Mugata, R.K., Kibunyi, N. K and Kinyua, Z. M.

**Design and Layout:** Nogrecia Mnene

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**For more information Contacts:** Director General  
Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization, Kaptagat Road, Loresho Nairobi Kenya  
P.O. Box 5781 I, City Square, Nairobi, 00200, Kenya

**Email:** [info@kalro.org](mailto:info@kalro.org)

**Safaricom:** +254 722206986/722206988; **Airtel:** +254 733-333-223/4/733333299/4