



DOVE
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Pear leaf blister mite

Pear leaf blister mite (*Phytoptus pyri*) is a widespread and often common pest on pears but can sometimes attack apples too.

The female of the species is about 0.2mm in length with a long, narrow white/pale brown body.

Lifecycle

The adults of both sexes usually over-winter beneath the outer bud scales and become active in the early spring when the buds then start to swell. At this time they burrow deeper into the buds and start to feed and lay eggs at the base of the inner scales of the bud. The adults also feed on other parts of the tree including the young leaves and developing flower buds. As with most mites, populations can be found on the underside of the leaves which shelter them from sun and rain. However, as the leaves succumb to the attack some of the cells collapse under the blisters formed as a result of the feeding and they enter through these damaged areas. Small galls are formed where the mites continue to breed throughout the summer. As new mites emerge, so more blisters are formed that then develop into galls. As the days shorten, the mites then progress to the bud scales again for the winter.

Damage

The galls can be seen as early as when the leaves start to unfurl. The galls are like green pimples which can change to yellow as the season progresses. Some produce a red colouring which can be seen on the leaf surface. Usually the galls are along the main vein but can spread as populations increase. Mites can be transported easily on the wind and on clothing. Leaves severely infested can turn brown and crop off.

Control

As this pest attacks edible crops, the product label must be checked carefully for harvest interval and spray timing information. This is particularly important for the products containing bifenthrin.

Read the label before you buy – use pesticides safely

Dove Associates shall in no event be liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of products mentioned in this document

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Retails products available for use on pear trees in 2007

1. Bifenthrin (not compatible with biological control)

- § Bayer Garden – Bug Free, Sprayday Greenfly Killer Plus
- § Doff All-in-One Garden Pest Killer
- § Scotts Bug Clear Gun!

2. Sulphur (re-introduce biological control after spraying)

- § Green Sulphur
- § Yellow Sulphur
- § Safer's Natural Garden Fungicide

3. Soft soaps (re-introduce biological control min. 12 hrs after spraying)

- § Bayer Garden Organic Pest Control
- § Doff Greenfly and Blackfly Killer
- § Safer's Insecticidal Soap
- § Savona Rose Spray

4. Plant oils

- § Biosept All Clear RTU
- § Biosept Rose Gold
- § Growing Success Winter Tree Wash

These products are subject to change (regarding their approval) by the Government at any time.

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