

BULB MITES

Bulb Mites (*Rhizoglyphus echinopus*)

Description

A smooth, colourless mite from 0.5 to 0.7 mm long with reddish-brown legs. It does not attack healthy bulbs, but rather infests those that are bruised or damaged. They can quickly reduce bulbs to a rotten pulp. Wandering of mites between bulbs is known to transmit fungal diseases.

Life Cycle

Many overlapping generations occur throughout the season. Life cycles can take from 9 to 27 days depending on temperatures - higher temperatures lead to faster cycles.

Bulb Scale Mite (*Steneotarsonemus laticeps*)

Description

Infected bulbs are abnormally dry and often small and somewhat soft. Brown streaks can be seen on the inner face of scales when cut open. Mite feeding on leaves causes yellow flecks and streaks resembling virus symptoms. Flower buds are affected as they emerge, resulting in blind shoots.

Life Cycle

All stages of this insect can be found within infected bulbs at all times. Rapid increases in populations are seen during increased temperature. Adults feed and breed for about a month. Increasing temperatures can shorten generation time to 14 days.

Hosts

Most bulbs.



Narcissus Bulb Mite

A. Antonelli



Bulb Scale Mite Injury on *Hippeastrum*

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Narcissus Bulb Scale Mite Injury

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