

## Clover Mites



Clover mite adult



Clover mite under microscope  
(Gary Alpert/IPM Images)



Clover mite molting to adult (R.  
Lehman/IPM Images)

**Typical Location When Observed:** Clover mites commonly enter homes from infested turf on the south sides of buildings in late fall and early spring.

**Importance/Damage:** Clover mites can be a serious nuisance in homes, appearing in large numbers and leaving reddish stains when crushed. They also damage turf in warm, dry areas of lawns during early to mid-spring.

**Distinguishing Features:** Tiny (1/12 inch) clover mites have legs as long as the body. This will help distinguish them from our common mites except brown wheat mite, also found on turf.

**Look-Alikes:** Brown wheat mite, Banks grass mite

**General Life History and Habits:** Clover mites feed on turfgrass, clover and other plants during spring and fall. There are two or more generations during the year. In late spring, clover mites produce overwintering eggs that do not hatch until the return of freezing temperatures in fall. Clover mite injury to turf is commonly mistaken for winter kill and usually is found in the same sunny, dry areas of the lawn where winter drying problems occur. Furthermore, almost all injury occurs within 10 feet of a building, tree or some other upright surface, where they can climb to shed their old skins and lay eggs.

**Resources:** More information on clover mites may be found in Extension Fact Sheet 5.505, *Clover and Other Mites of Turfgrass*.

**Scientific Name:** *Bryobia praetiosa*

**Class:** Arachnida

**Order:** Acari (mites and ticks)

**Family:** Tetranychidae (spider mites)

Actual Length  
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**Version:** July 30, 2009