



Image source: John M. McPartland & Karl W. Hillig (2008)  
The Hemp Russet Mite, Journal of Industrial Hemp.

## RUSSET MITE INFORMATION SHEET

There are many species of russet mites: the tomato russet mite (*Aculops lycopersici*), the citrus russet mite (*Phyllocoptruta oleivora*), the hemp russet mite (*Aculops cannibicola*) and many others.

The hemp russet mite can be a devastating pest in cannabis cultivation.



Injury by hemp russet mite can produce a range of symptoms that often can be subtle. There is some off-color and reduction in leaf size, but the primary effect has been to retard bud development, which can greatly affect yield of cannabidiol cultivars (Cranshaw et al, 2019)

Adults and nymphs may appear white, tan, pink or yellow and are almost invisible to the naked eye. Russet mites do not produce the webbing, thus may go unnoticed until there is a build-up of a large population as well as visible damage. This emphasizes the importance of continual regular scouting.

### Damage

The damage usually presents itself at the bottom of the plant and moves upwards together with the mite population. Visible damage includes deformation and folding of the leaf blade, with a curling of the leaf edges. The leaves become russeted and bronzed, and gradually dry out.

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Currently, none of the commercially available predatory mites used for greenhouse pests have yet been clearly demonstrated to be effective for hemp russet mite. Predatory mites are also often limited by the low humidity conditions that are normally associated with hemp being produced in arid areas, such as Colorado. Limited trials have indicated that mineral oils appear promising for suppression of hemp russet mite (WC, unpublished data).

#### Resources:

[Developing Insect Pest Management Systems for Hemp in the United States: A Work in Progress](#)

Whitney Cranshaw, Melus Schreiner, Kadie Britt, Thomas P Kuhar, John McPartland, Jerome Grant  
*Journal of Integrated Pest Management*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2019

Cannabis Clinic. The Hemp Russet Mite. John M McPartlan & Karl W. Hillig.

*Journal of Industrial Hemp Pages 107 – 112, September 2008*

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