

The Lychee Erinose Mite (LEM) (*Aceria litchii* Keifer)



Photo: Alexandra Revynthi



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Photo: Daniel Carrillo



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Scouting for LEM:

- Frequent and regular monitoring of trees
- Search for shoots with emerging leaves and/or panicles
- Look for blisters and erinea (rust colored hair like structure)

Cultural practices:

- Avoid overfertilization, especially with nitrogen (N)
- Selective pruning of infested plant parts (i.e., those shoots with leaves and stems showing symptoms), followed by sulfur (Microthiol Disperss) application
- Do NOT prune if you do not intend to apply sulfur
- Do not move infested material off the property. Burn (permit required), chip or double bag infested material and expose the bags to sunlight for a minimum of three days

How to apply sulfur to protect the new flush

Rate:

- 20 lbs. Microthiol Disperss /Acre
- For single trees mix 2-3 oz sulfur in 2-4 gallons water (depending upon tree size) and spray

Application method and frequency:

- Apply sulfur to all the parts of the tree, including the trunk
- First sulfur application should be made at the time of pruning
- Subsequent applications must be repeated every 15 days from bud break until all leaves harden (approx. three-months and 8 applications in total) using the same rate
- Retreatment at less than 15 days interval may be necessary if substantial rainfall occurs

Warning: Do not use sulfur with oil or within 30 days of an oil spray treatment.

Warning: Use caution when making sulfur applications at temperatures over 90°F.

Remember the label is the law! Do not exceed recommended application rates.