



Serving the Front Range from Castle Rock to Fort Collins.

SWINGLE^{expert}

The latest news on landscape care from the experts at Swingle.

ARTICLE

Denver / Castle Rock / Boulder
303.337.6200

Monument
719.302.5117

Ft. Collins / Loveland / Greeley
970.221.1287

Longmont
720.204.1846

www.myswingle.com

Perfect fall weather for Clover Mite development.

I hope you had an opportunity to enjoy the fabulous Colorado Fall that we just experienced. We were greeted by warm days and crisp cool nights and hardly saw a snowflake in the sky.

You know who else was enjoying the weather, Clover Mites. This past fall was perfect for lawn mite development. Warm days and no moisture allowed many lawns to dry out. Mites thrive in dry weather. The clover mite is considered a cool season mite occurring in the fall and spring.

Often our first encounter with Clover Mites is in the home. In the early fall, eggs hatch and the young mites come inside seeking shelter. Clover Mites are noticed as red specks becoming a nuisance by staining inside surfaces. They may be numerous around windows and doors especially on south and west facing walls.

Outdoors, mites feed in the grass in a ten-foot perimeter around the home and other upright surfaces such as brick walls and trees. Clover Mites lay eggs on the vertical surfaces. Areas targeted by the mites are warm dry areas around the home. South facing slopes and especially those populated with evergreen trees are favorites.

Mites damage the grass by sucking plant juices from the outer cell layers of the leaf blades. Early stages of damage are not obvious and only when the grass fails to green up in the spring is there alarm. Next spring is not the time to discover your lawn is dead from mite damage. Mite detection is best done on a warm afternoon. Wipe the top of the lawn with a white sheet of paper and look for small red specks (smaller than a pin head) moving about on the sheet. The mites should easily smear by running your finger over the paper.

Periodically watering of these dry lawns greatly reduces the mite populations. Monthly sprays with miticides will control clover mites. Products on the market are very limited, and only materials containing bifenthrin or lamdacyhalothrin are labeled and have been found effective. Concentrate your pesticide applications where the mites are found including west and south facing walls of the home and a perimeter ten feet out into the lawn. Also if you have large evergreen trees (spruce and pines) on south and west facing slopes look for mites there as well and apply appropriate controls.

We are pleased to have you as a special partner in our Swingle Expert Article content. You may reprint any or all parts of this article. Please credit Swingle Lawn, Tree & Landscape Care. Thank you.