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# Avocado—Persea Mite Quick Counting Method

## Supplement to UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Avocado

Grower: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

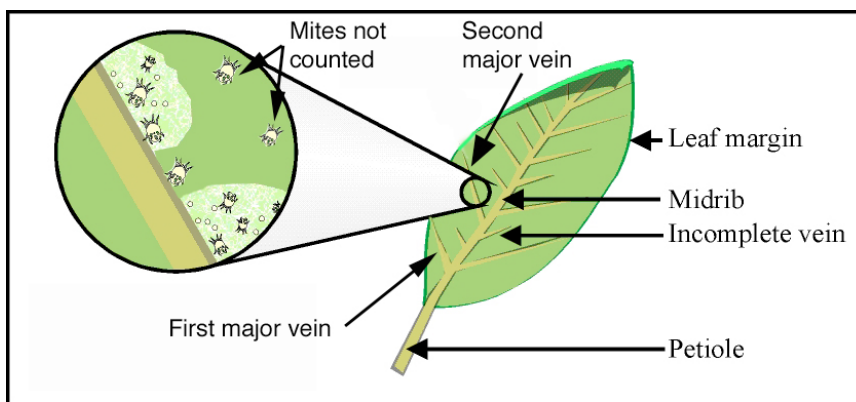
**Directions:** Monitor mites about every 7 to 10 days from about April through October:

1. Randomly pick current-season leaves of mixed age, one leaf from each of at least 10 trees.
2. Looking at the underside of each leaf, start at the petiole end. Locate the second major vein that goes strongly from the midrib to the left leaf edge. Ignore any partial, small, or weak veins. Examine the upper (towards the leaf tip) vein edge through a hand lens. (Do not count mite eggs; do not count any visible mites located away from the vein and outside webbed or necrotic patches.)
  - Count the persea mites adjacent to that upper edge of the second major vein.
  - Count mites in webbed nests or exposed necrotic feeding patches that touch the vein.
  - Count any other mites up against the vein.
3. Total the number of persea mites counted and divide the total by the number of leaves sampled (typically 10).
4. Multiply by 12 to derive the average mites per entire leaf.
5. Also count the predaceous mites (e.g., *Galendromus* spp.) in the persea mite feeding patches. Divide total predator mites by the number of leaves sampled. Multiply this predaceous mite average by 6.

Leaf sample	Persea mites	Predator mites
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
9		
10		

<b>Total mites on the second major vein samples from 10 trees:</b>		
<b>Average mites per sample:</b> (Total mites / 10)		
<b>Estimated average mites per leaf:</b> (Average persea mites x 12) or (Average predator mites x 6)		

Adapted from: Machlitt, D. 1998. Subtropical Fruit News 6(2): 1-4.



Adapted from: Hoddle, M. S. 1998. University of California, Riverside. www.biocontrol.ucr.edu