

TECH TIP: BULB MITES (*RHIZOGLYPHUS*)

Bulb mites feed on a wide range of flowering plants and are a challenging pest to control.



Bulb mites are often present on bulbs feeding on healthy and rotting scales but only become a major issue when scale and root health is compromised due to improper culture and lack of preventative pesticides for root protection.

Dispose of rotting or soft bulbs that are infested with bulb mites.

- Bulb mites are resistant to pesticides in several chemical classes. Most conventional miticides and biologicals have little to no effect against bulb mites.
- In high populations, bulb mites commonly hitch rides to new areas on more mobile pests like whiteflies, thrips fungus gnats and shore flies.

Cultural	Biological
Dispose of infected/diseased bulbs.	<i>Stratiolaelaps scimitus (Hypoaspis miles)*</i>
Heat treatment – 110°F for 30 mins.	
Clean up soil debris in growing area.	
Control primary pests to limit mite spread.	

*[University of Connecticut](#) indicates limited effectiveness

Additional Resources:

[Bulb Mites on Flowers](#), University of Maryland Extension

[Greenhouse IPM: Lily Basal Rot and Bulb Mites in Easter Lilies](#), Penn State Extension

[Bulb Mites](#), The Ohio State University Extension

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