



Redlegged Earth Mite Pasture Check

Use this tool to check whether your paddocks have RLEM. The information you collect can then be used to help you work out your risk of RLEM damage next autumn and then how you can manage for RLEM control, including whether you need to spray for RLEM or not.

What You'll Need

- ❖ Print a copy of this sheet for each paddock.
- ❖ Reading glasses if needed.
- ❖ Magnifying glass if you have one.

The instructions are on the reverse of this page.

Observations

Date: _____

Weather: _____

Sun

Cloud Cover

Rain

Wind

Paddock _____	Leaf Silvering	Mites Present	Comments
Location 1	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location 2	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location 3	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location 4	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	Y <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Other Comments



Instructions

Autumn

When to check

At least 3 weeks after a weekly maximum daily average temperature of less than 21°C combined with a significant rainfall event. Optimal conditions for observing RLEM are still, fine days after the dew has dissipated from the leaves.

How to Check

1. Go into your paddock and select a patch of pasture or crops to observe. Approach very quietly with light feet or the mites will be alerted and hide.
2. Assess damage to seedlings. The first 2 leaves to emerge (cotyledons) are the most susceptible and will show damage if mites are present. Damage appears as silvering on the upper surface of the leaves. Record your observations in the table below
3. Stay very still, don't breathe heavily and observe for 30 seconds to check for RLEM presence. If you can't see mites on seedlings, look for broad-leafed weeds, especially capeweed. Carefully lift up the leaves closest to the soil and check the soil surface under the leaf for mites. Record your observations in the table below. Make sure you check that the mites present are RLEM and not Blue Oat Mite.
4. Repeat this process at 3 more locations in each paddock.
5. If you still don't see any mites, check again in a few days.

Spring

When to Check

Anytime before your Timerite date. Optimal conditions for observing RLEM are still, fine days, but not in the heat of the day.

How to Check

1. Again, go into your paddock and select a patch of pasture or crops to observe. Approach very quietly with light feet or the mites will be alerted and hide.
2. Assess damage to leaves. Look for silvering on the upper surface of leaves. Record your observations in the table below.
3. Look for RLEM feeding on the upper surface of the leaves in the upper canopy and then the lower canopy. If you don't see any, get on your hands and knees and, gently part the pasture and look closely at the soil surface around the plant stems for movement (stay very still and observe for 30 seconds). Record your observations in the table below. Make sure you check that the mites present are RLEM and not Blue Oat Mite.
4. If you can't see any mites, search out broad leafed weeds, especially capeweed. Carefully lift the leaves closest to soil and check the soil surface for mites. If capeweed flowers are present, select an 'old looking' flower that is pollinating and tap the flower head into the palm of your hand. Mites will fall into your hand if present.
5. Repeat this process at 3 more locations in each paddock.
6. If you still don't see any mites, check again in a few days.

What to Do Next?

Once you have filled in your data, go to www.timerite.com.au and enter your information into the risk calculator to determine your risk of RLEM damage next autumn.

It is recommended that you do a RLEM Pasture Check before you spray for RLEM. If RLEM is not present, then it may not be worth while spraying for RLEM in that paddock. Go to the "What are the management options for RLEM" section of www.timerite.com.au or the Timerite booklet to find out about ways to reduce the risk of RLEM attack and how to keep RLEM out of your paddocks.