In moisture deprived areas, spider mites are beginning to move into row crops. Below is an overview of their lifecycle, feeding characteristics, thresholds and methods of control.

**Two-Spotted Spider Mite** – Mature yellowish-orange adults overwinter at the base of host plants under ground cover. After breaking dormancy, females lay up to 200 microscopic eggs on the underside of leaves typically under webbing. Larva commonly hatch in three to five days. In optimal conditions with high temperatures and low humidity, a generation may be completed in seven days. They inflict damage by inserting their piercing, sucking mouth parts into plant cells to remove cell contents creating irreversible damage.

**Scouting Tips** – Adults are eight-legged and a yellowish green color with four dorsal spots. Larva are six-legged and emerge colorless resembling nymphs and adults but much smaller. Fine webbing may cover the host plant if heavy infestations manifest. Feeding typically occurs on the undersides of leaves. If mite damage is suspected, shake affected leaves on a white piece of paper or paper plate and use a hand lens to confirm their presence. Soybean damage often materializes as a U- or V-pattern near grassy areas. Spider mites frequently move into crops after ditches and waterways are mowed and might be tracked by the direction of a prevailing wind.

**Injury Symptoms** – Initial injury will cause the upper leaf surface to appear speckled or mottled. If damage is severe, leaves may turn yellow and desiccate creating a loss of vigor and pod reduction.

**Treatment Recommendation** – Insecticide applications are warranted in soybeans if 20 percent of leaves are discolored prior to pod set. Following pod set, leaf discoloration should not exceed 10 percent prior to treating. Insecticide applications should be employed as needed rather than in scheduled tactics due to rapid regeneration. Adequate coverage is paramount to facilitate penetration into the canopy targeting large numbers of mites feeding on under sides of leaves. Applications should encompass high carrier volumes (20-30 GPA by ground, minimum of 5 GPA by air) and a proper surfactant to ensure canopy penetration and spread.

If treatment is warranted, apply Hero® Insecticide at 10.3 oz./A OR Hero Insecticide 5 oz./A + Dimethoate 16 oz./A

**Hero Insecticide is a Restricted Use Pesticide.** Always read and follow label directions. Hero Insecticide is not registered for use in California. FMC and Hero are trademarks of FMC Corporation or an affiliate. © 2017 FMC Corporation. All rights reserved.