

THE USE OF "ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY" PESTICIDES IN DEALING WITH AVOCADO MITES (*Oligonychus perseae*) IN ISRAEL

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The avocado mites (*Oligonychus perseae*) were identified for the first time in avocado orchards in the Western Galilee, Israel, during fall in 2001.

Since the avocado plant protection management in Israel is based on combined-biological management, there was no chance of using conventional acaricides, but only the compounds that do not interfere with the existing biological balance and do not cause any damage or harm to the natural biological enemies.

From the "environment friendly" compounds examined in the field, 'Spirodiclofen' (commercial name "Envidor") and 'Mineral Oil' (commercial name E.O.S.) were found effective based on parameters of natural enemies' viability after spraying with the above mentioned compounds, as well as parasitoids survival tests which had been done in 'Bio-Bee Laboratories'.

These compounds are certified by the European Union regulation for allowable traces of chemicals and were certified also in Israel. The use of 'Envidor' permits the spray to be used at least 28 days and on before harvest whereas it is only a day for the use of 'E.O.S.'

These compounds are now in use in the avocado orchards in Israel according to the thresholds and recommendations from research by Dr.Palevsky et al.