

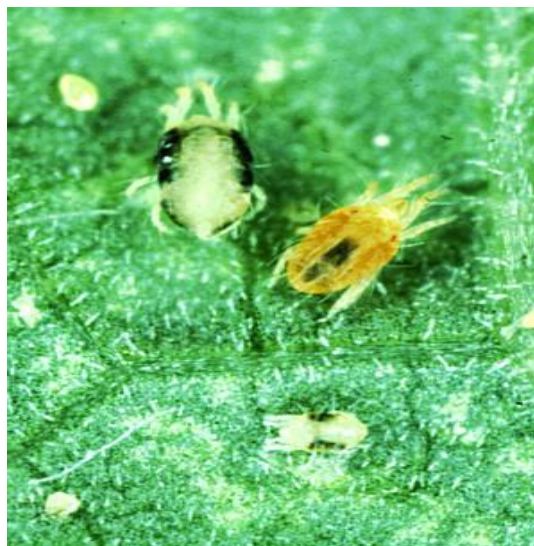
HTA Grower Technical Workshop Programme for 2026

Two-spotted spider mite control masterclass

Harper Adams University (HAU), Edgmond, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB

Tuesday 16th June 2026

*Delivered by Zest Sustainable ICM, this masterclass focuses on providing a better understanding of one of the key pests of ornamental crops, the two-spotted spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*). Through a better appreciation of the biology and lifecycle of the spider mite, and improved identification, effective crop protection programmes can be achieved via targeted monitoring, correct biocontrol agent selection and optimal introduction timings. The event provides an opportunity to hear about the latest spider mite work and to see the research facilities at HAU. The masterclass also includes practical exercises on two-spotted spider mite identification and devising an integrated pest management control programme. A summary quiz will test knowledge gained throughout the day.*



Masterclass agenda

Time	Content	Speaker
Harper Adams University, Frank Parkinson Farm Education Centre		
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
Practical and presentations		
09:30 – 10:10	Biology, lifecycle, identification, and host species of the two-spotted spider mite. Practical session using microscopes to identify pest mites and their biocontrol agents	Joe Roberts, HAU
10:10 – 10:50	Monitoring and biological control strategies for spider mites on ornamental crops	Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM
10:50 – 11:00	<i>Coffee, tea, and refreshments</i>	
11:00 – 11:30	Predatory mite dispersal and other spider mite predators	Ana Rodrigues Silva and Patrick Lopes Gualberto, HAU
11:30 – 12:00	Work on essential oils to control two-spotted spider mites	Wiktorina Rusin, HAU
12:00 – 12:40	Crop protection options for spider mite management and integration into control programmes	Selchuk Kurtev, Zest Sustainable ICM
12:40 – 13:15	<i>Lunch buffet</i>	
Tour and exercises		
13:15 – 14:15	Tour of the HAU Entomology Department and facilities	Dr. Joe Roberts and team, HAU

Tour and exercises continued		
14:15 – 15:00	Desktop exercise to plan a two-spotted spider mite management programme using example crops – delegates will be given an example crop to pull together an IPM programme	All delegates
15:00 – 15:30	Summary quiz to establish knowledge gained from the day – an engaging multiple-choice quiz to round off the masterclass	All delegates
15:30	<i>Wrap up and depart</i>	

The number of attendees at the masterclass will be limited to one per business and ten in total.

Delegates are invited to bring along samples of two-spotted spider mites, or other mite species, which they would like confirmed during the practical session.

BASIS and NRoSO continual professional development points will be available on the day of the masterclass.

Address and local directions:

Harper Adams University, Edmond, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB
 (highlighted in yellow on the map)
What3words: ///laugh.bolts.exhales

