Mite cultivar evaluation for host plant resistance to twospotted spider mite, 2026

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The experiment was conducted in Field 35A at Cal Poly. Bare root strawberry transplants were planted into raised beds on 31 October 2025. Beds were covered with 1.1 mil black TIF (totally impermeable film) polyethylene mulch (TriCal Inc., Hollister, CA). The experimental area consisted of eleven beds, 120 ft long. Each strawberry bed was 64 in. center to center with four rows of plants spaced 12 in between rows and 15.5 in between plants within a row. Plants were irrigated and fertilized via three lines of drip tape per bed. Each cultivar was planted in a plot that was 5 ft long, replicated four times, and arranged in a randomized complete block design. Each plot was hand infested with twospotted spider mites (*Tetranychus urticae*) once in February and again in April. Five leaflets were collected every two weeks beginning 10 February and ending 20 May 2026 with a total of 8 sampling dates. All adults, nymphs, and eggs were counted.

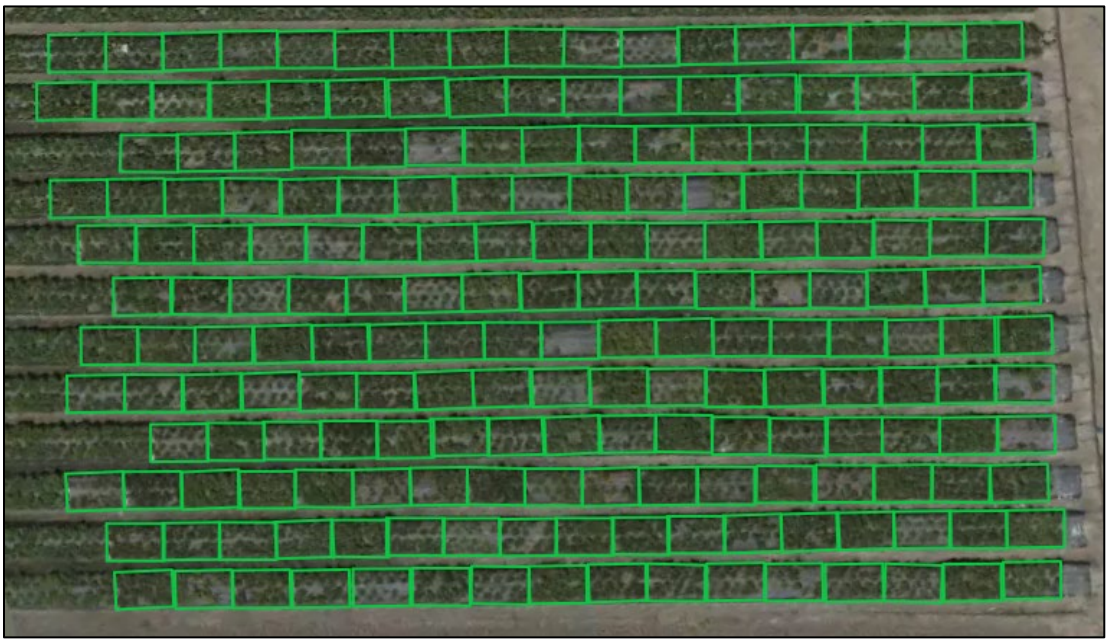


Figure 1. Aerial image of the mite cultivar field trial on 24 April 2026, located in field 35A on the Cal Poly SLO farm taken by AerialPlot. Plants in the area outlined in green were infested with twospotted spider mites in February and April 2026.



Figure 2. Image of early season twospotted spider mites (winter form) feeding on the underside of a strawberry leaflet. Note the size of the trichomes (plant hairs) relative to the mites.

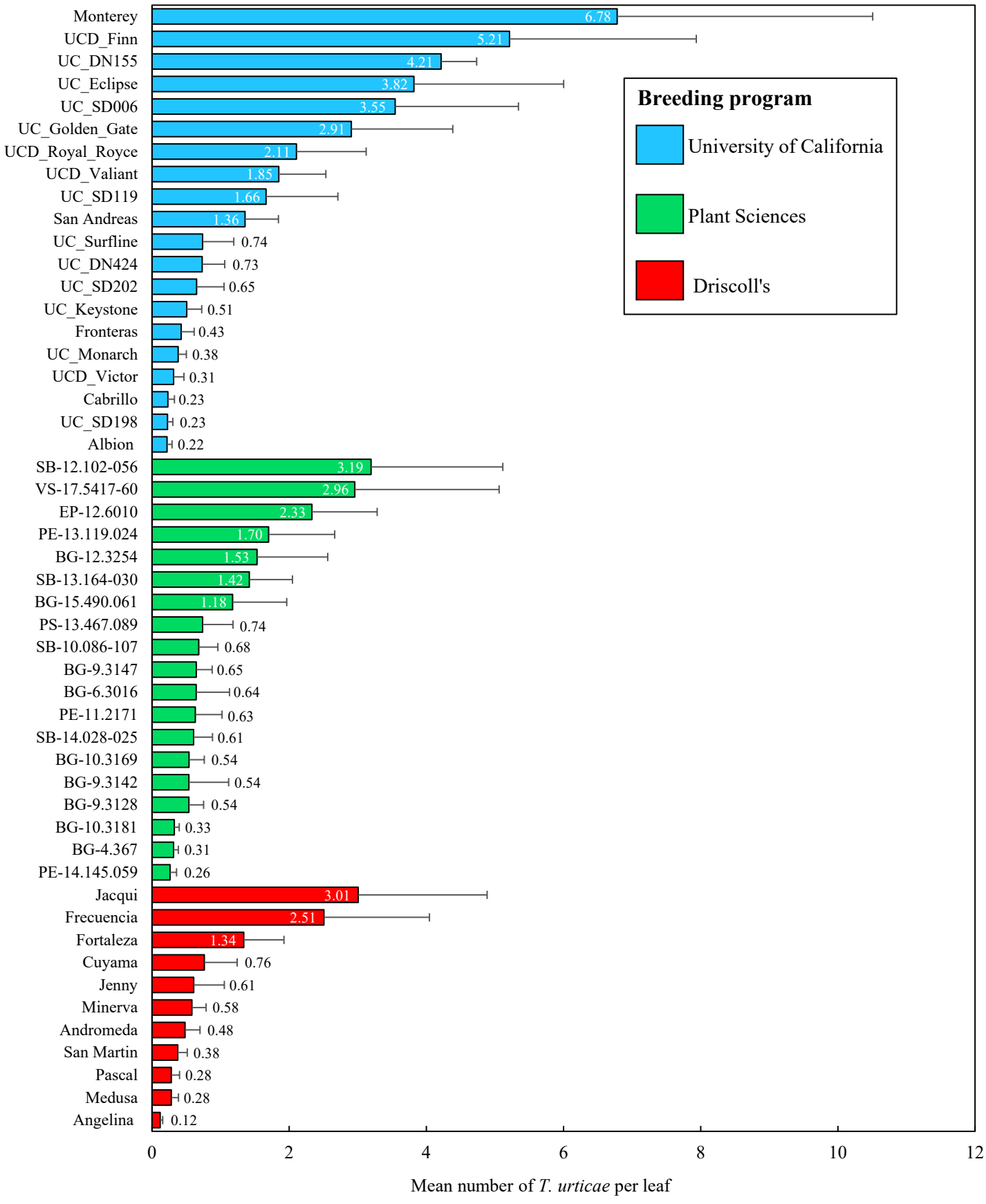


Figure 3. Twospotted spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*) nymph and adult combined counts on genotypes/cultivars averaged across the seasonal sampling collections for ease of presentation.