

Citrus Bud Mite Injury

new chemicals may solve old problem of lemon fruit and foliage deformities

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Some of the newer, specific acaricides—products of modern research in agricultural chemicals—have shown promise in field tests as the possible solution to the centuries old problem of malformed lemon fruits.

Characteristic abnormalities of lemon fruit and foliage were first associated with the presence of the citrus bud mite—*Eriophyes sheldoni* (Aceria)—in California in 1937, but deformed lemons were known in Italy in 1646.

In the nineteenth century the deformed lemons were considered as monstrosities and the cause was attributed to the change of the lemon plants from their wild state to cultivation.

Comparison of Symptoms

A comparison of the accompanying drawings—of malformed lemons—and the photographs—of the characteristically abnormal lemons now recognized as symptomatic evidence of citrus bud mite infestations—strikingly indicates that the monstrosities resulted from simi-

lar, if not the same agent that caused the disease.

Apparently the citrus bud mite is not a native of California but its control in California citrus groves may be possible by treatment with one or more of the newer acaricides.

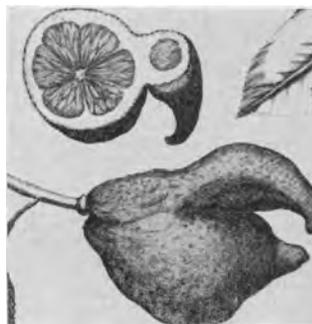
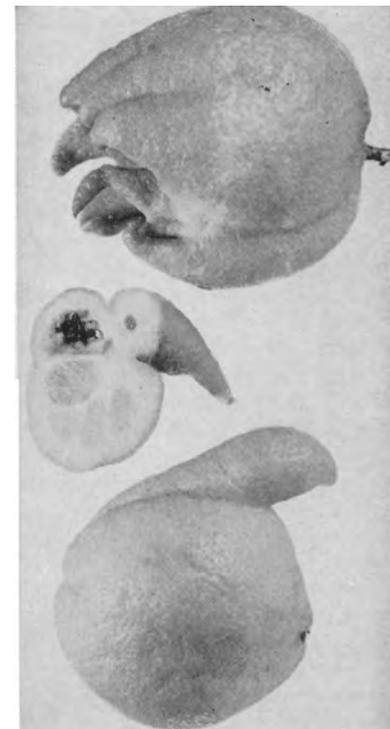
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Right: Drawings of malformed citrus fruit made in 1708 by J. C. Volckamer, Nuremberg, Germany. Far right: Symptomatic evidence of citrus bud mite injury to fruit picked in 1953 at Escondido.



Drawing of deformed citrus fruit made in 1646 by B. Ferrari, Rome, Italy.



Left: Deformed lemon fruit which developed from blossoms injured by citrus bud mite. The fruit was picked at Escondido in 1953. Right: Drawings of deformed citrus fruit made in 1887, by O. Penzig, Rome, Italy.

