INTRODUCTION
A pest of lychee, *Aceria litchii* (Keiffer, 1943), known as lychee erinose mite (LEM), has a distribution that is currently limited to the following counties within Florida: Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Hendry, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, Martin and Brevard. The following counties are no longer positive for LEM: Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Broward and St. Lucie. Miami-Dade includes only a single positive site at the north of the county, some distance from the main lychee farming area in Homestead.

This mite causes erineum galls, abnormal growths covered in fine hairs, to form on leaves, which later become reddish-brown with a velvety appearance. This damage can initially appear superficial, but as the numbers of the mite increase, damage spreads to the fruits and flowers.

IDENTIFICATION
This mite is too small to observe directly without a microscope, but its presence can be readily detected by the erineum galls on the surface of leaves (Figs. 1 and 2) or by the reddish-brown underside of the leaves (Fig. 3). Damage also typically includes curling of the leaves. The Division of Plant Industry should be contacted (DPIHelpline@FDACS.gov or 1-888-397-1517) if these symptoms are noticed on any lychee leaves.

HOSTS
The lychee erinose mite is a major pest of lychee (*Litchi chinensis*) in many countries, including Australia, Brazil, and much of South Asia.
Figs. 1 and 2: Erinea on leaves. Fig. 3: Leaves attacked by this erinose mite eventually develop a reddish-brown underside.

### IDENTIFICATION SHEET

**Symptoms of the Lychee Erinose Mite**

The lychee erinose mite (*Aceria litchii*), which is too small to see without a microscope, can be detected from the galls that it forms on lychee, and possibly also longan. The earliest symptom is often a single, tiny gall on a single lychee leaf. Large galls arise later, once the level of infestation is greater. Regardless of size, galls change color and visibility as they mature (see overleaf).

#### Early/Small Gall

- **Topside**: Not detectable at this stage
- **Underside**: Dark green patch with low density of white hairs

#### Late/Large Gall

- **Topside**: Slight bulge; not yet any browning
- **Underside**: Dark green patch with moderate density of white hairs

- **Stage 3**: Prominent bulge; some browning can occur at this stage
- **Underside**: High density of amber hairs, obscuring dark green surface

- **Stage 4**: Prominent, brown, hard bulge
- **Underside**: High density of dark brown hairs

**Note**: Care should be taken not to spread lychee erinose mites. Before leaving a site, any items, skin and clothing that contact an infected lychee plant should be disinfected with alcohol.

1-888-397-1517

FreshFromFlorida.com

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

High density of dark brown hairs

High density of amber hairs, obscuring dark green surface

High density of dark brown hairs