



## Question of the Week

**Q: What are the tiny, red mite-like creatures in the corners of my windows and all over my wall?**

**A:** These nuisance pests are clover mites. Slightly smaller than a pinhead, clover mites have a bright reddish to reddish-brown body. They appear as dark red specks crawling around sidings, doors, windows, drapes, curtains and furniture. When accidentally crushed, clover mites will appear red and will cause a stain. This is not blood, but their coloration. You can control these pests mechanically by removing grass and weeds from a band 18 to 24 inches around the foundation of the house, and covering it with a layer gravel, coarse sand, marbles, lava rock, or wood chips. Mites generally have difficulty crossing such barriers. Also, avoid excessive watering or fertilizing so you won't encourage a lush growth of host plants close to the house. Indoors, use a vacuum cleaner to pick up the live mites without crushing them, and dispose of the sweeper bag. Clover mites can also be controlled by chemical treatments. If the mites have heavily infested your home you may use an indoor chemical control, such as permethrin. Apply deltamethrin or permethrin outdoors as a spray (you can also use a brush to paint it on) around window casings, door frames, and other areas where mites occur. Always follow label directions when using pesticides.

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)