

## **MILBEMECTIN: A NATURALLY DERIVED MITICIDE/INSECTICIDE FOR SELECTIVE ARTHROPOD MANAGEMENT**

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Milbemectin (Mesa™, Koromite™, Ultiflora™) is a new miticide/insecticide being developed for selective arthropod management in a variety of agricultural and ornamental crops in the U.S. Milbemectin is a mixture of natural compounds (milbemycins) derived from the soil microorganism *Streptomyces hygroscopicus* subsp. *aureolacrimosus*. It is highly effective against a wide range of economic pest mite species including tetranychid, eriophyid, and tarsonemid mites. Milbemectin acts through both contact and ingestion. It is active on all life stages of mites including eggs and at sub lethal levels significantly reduces the egg-laying capacity of treated adult females. Milbemectin has a good toxicological and environmental profile and has recently been classified by the US-EPA as a reduced risk compound. Milbemectin has excellent crop safety, minimal impact on beneficial arthropods and is not cross-resistant to existing acaricides thus making it an excellent choice for use in integrated pest management and resistance management programs.