

Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

February 28, 2020
ALERT #1

FIELD OBSERVATIONS



Gill's Mealybug on Bud

GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS

Gill's Mealybug in Pistachio overwinters as nymphs under bark and in the crevices along the trunk and limbs of the trees. As temperatures warm and the tree pushes carbohydrates to the growing points, the mealybug tends to awaken and begins to move to the buds to feed. Monitoring for Gill's Mealybug in the areas of Lost Hills, Kettleman City, Five Points, Hanford, and Corcoran reveals mealybug nymphs are now moving and can be found settling on the buds. Expect this to continue for the next couple of weeks. Several growers experienced very heavy mealybug infestations at harvest this past season and with this year's mild winter, very little natural mortality has occurred. This means that it may prove to be a bad Gill's Mealybug year again. If Gill's Mealybug was a problem at harvest this past season, consider implementing a more aggressive insecticide program this year. Treat with CENTAUR **Now through Bud Break (late February to mid-March)** to reduce mealybug populations; then follow up with a second application of another effective insecticide (Movento® or Assail®) to provide complete control in May-June.



Gill's Mealybug Under Bark

For heavy mealybug infestations, use CENTAUR at 40-46 oz/A + a good silicone or NIS surfactant.

Open the nozzles to cover the trunk from the soil line all the way up into the canopy wood.

The best time to treat for Gill's Mealybug remains at crawler hatch in mid-May to early June; however, a CENTAUR application at **delayed dormant through bud break** is an excellent option for those growers who cannot use CENTAUR in-season. **This application will also provide control of Frosted Scale!** Consult with processor to confirm this application/timing is permitted.



FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Frosted scale, too, overwinters as 1st instar on the tips of twigs. Field scouting in the same blocks as above shows the scale is still susceptible and has not yet molted. However, with the warm temperatures, it will begin molting soon. Right now, scout for this scale by looking on the tips of twigs; a scouting loop may be needed to see the insect. Overwintering frosted scale are very small, flat, brown to yellowish color, and will always appear on last year's wood growth. A delayed dormant application is the best time of the season to treat for this pest.

CENTAUR at 34.5-40 oz/A + a good surfactant will provide complete control of this pest, and it is very likely frosted scale will not be a concern for the remainder of the season. This application will also reduce overwintering Gill's Mealybug population.

NOTE: The field observations above are provided as general comments to help in treatment decisions. Individual field conditions can vary widely. Monitor individual fields carefully.

East SJV	Ben Letizia	(559) 554-6114	bletizia@nichino.net
West SJV	Greg Miller	(480) 993-9664	gmiller@nichino.net
No. Central Valley	Cash Cadena	(559) 469-3112	ccadena@nichino.net
South/Central SJV	John Hubbard	(559) 707-7377	jhubbard@nichino.net
Northern CA	Anna Page	(530) 708-2310	apage@nichino.net