



**Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™**

**March 4, 2021  
ALERT #1**

**FIELD OBSERVATIONS**



**Gill's Mealybug on Trunk**

**GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS**

Gill's Mealybug overwinters as nymphs under bark and in crevices along the trunk and limbs of the trees. As temperatures warm up (65°F) and the tree starts to push carbohydrates to the growing points, the mealybug will awaken and begin to move to the buds to feed. Recent monitoring for Gill's Mealybug in the areas of Lost Hills, Kettleman City, Riverdale, Hanford, Five Points, and Corcoran reveals mealybug nymphs have started moving and can be found settling on the buds. Expect this to continue through March.

In Northern CA, north of Sacramento, Gill's mealybug are being observed in their overwintering nymph stages underneath the bark, in crevices on the trunk and limbs of the trees. They have not yet begun to make their move out to the buds to feed. Mealybug are expected to move out to the buds over the next few weeks as the temperatures get warmer.

The winter temperatures experienced this year have resulted in a high degree of mealybug survival. This means mealybug pressure will likely be high again this upcoming season. The optimal application window to target overwintering crawlers with **CENTAUR will be March 10th through March 31st** this year. A second application of an effective material may be necessary in May to provide complete control in orchards with high mealybug pressure.

An application of CENTAUR in March at delayed dormant through bud break is an excellent option for those growers who cannot use CENTAUR in-season. Always consult with processor's grower liaison to approve an application of CENTAUR. Use CENTAUR at 34.5 to 46 oz/A plus a good silicone or NIS surfactant with 150-200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH. Use the higher rate in orchards with high mealybug pressure. Open the nozzles to cover the trunk from the soil-line all the way up into the canopy wood. This application may also provide control of Frosted Scale.



**Gill's Mealybug on Bud**

**FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

Frosted scale, too, overwinters as 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

An application of CENTAUR at 34.5 to 40 oz/A plus 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. [Click HERE to view a video on how to scout for Gill's Mealybug.](#)**



Northern CA  
Central Valley  
South/Central Valley  
No. Central Valley  
North SJV  
South SJV

Anna Page (530) 708-2310  
Cash Cadena (559) 469-3112  
Greg Miller (480) 993-9664  
Braden Cardoza (209) 323-0707  
Octavio Magallanes (559) 396-5993  
John Hubbard (559) 707-7377

apage@nichino.net  
ccadena@nichino.net  
gmiller@nichino.net  
bcardoza@nichino.net  
omagallanes@nichino.net  
jhubbard@nichino.net