



Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

**May 19, 2021
ALERT #9**

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS



**Gill's Mealybug Adult
with Crawler Hatch**

Gills mealybug monitoring in Pistachio in the Lost Hills, Kettleman City, Laton, Five Points, Corcoran, Huron, and Coalinga areas found populations to be mainly at the adult and crawler stage. Adults have begun giving birth to mealybug crawlers on the trunks and will die once the birthing process has been completed. Crawlers can be found under the females and some have begun moving to the leaves to begin feeding. The peak crawler hatch in the South Valley is happening now! **It is time to begin Centaur sprays to control Gills Mealybug!** Crawlers will continue to hatch for the next 7-10 days and will remain susceptible for at least the next couple of weeks. **The optimal Centaur treatment window is from now till the end of first week in June. The sooner the better!**

Gill's Mealybug development north of Sacramento were all at the adult stage. The majority should now be settled and "nested". Based on the developmental stage of the eggs, it will likely be another 7-10 days before crawler emergence occurs. Plan to begin Centaur applications in the North Valley in late May to early June.

Be sure to carefully monitor known hot spots for Gill's Mealybug to properly time Centaur application in your orchard. Right now, look for adult mealybugs with crawlers under them hiding on the trunk and limbs and crawlers moving to leaves near the trunk.

In Northern CA, the scouting site that we have been using has been treated. Please contact Anna Page if you have a site in Northern CA that you would be willing to let us scout.

CENTAUR at 34.5 oz to 46 oz/acre plus a good surfactant in 200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH will provide excellent control of Gills mealybug at this window. Use 40-46 oz for high populations.

Centaur® is an Insect Growth Regulator, therefore the application should be made to target the beginning of crawler emergence. Crawlers will pick up the Centaur residue as they move around searching for a feeding site.



**Gill's Mealybug
Crawlers on Leaf**

FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Monitoring for Frosted scale found that all of the population is at the adult stage with eggs. Eggs have begun changing color, but no crawlers were found. Frosted scale egg hatch will likely begin by the third week of May (around the 21st). There will be some overlap in the crawler hatch between Gills Mealybug and Frosted Scale. Centaur will also suppress Frosted Scale.

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.

Consult with your pistachio processor to confirm that they are allowing CENTAUR in season applications.

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

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