



**Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™**

**May 11, 2022  
ALERT #6**

**FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

**GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS**



**Gill's Mealybug  
in Trunk Crevice**

Gill's mealybug monitoring in Pistachio in the Lost Hills, Kettleman City, Laton, Five Points, Corcoran, Huron, and Coalinga areas are showing the populations to be mainly at the adult stage now. Most adults have moved back to settle in crevices on the trunk and limbs. All adults have well-defined eggs within their bodies and have begun "nesting" where they will begin giving birth to live crawlers. In the south valley, 10-20% of the population are crawlers with some moving to leaves. Gill's mealybug in the Five Points, Corcoran, and Hanford areas are at about 10-15% crawler hatch. Crawlers have not moved out from under the females yet.

Gill's MB development this year is consistent with last year's schedule. Based on the current development and forecasted temperatures, expect to see a major crawler hatch by May 21st. Plan to begin Centaur sprays by the end of next week, especially in the South Valley.

In northern CA, all the Gill's mealybug are currently adults. At this time, some of the mealybug can be seen on the main trunk of the tree where they will settle down to nest and give birth to their young. About half of the population can still be found in the canopy; however, these were not seen actively feeding and will soon make their way to the base of the tree. All the females were very plump and heavily laden with eggs. The adult females will nest and give birth to crawlers in the next couple of weeks.

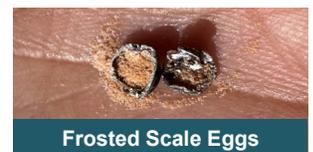
**CENTAUR at 34.5 oz to 46 oz/acre + a good surfactant in 200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH will provide excellent control of Gills mealybug at this window. Use 40-46 oz for high populations. Centaur® is an Insect Growth Regulator; therefore, the application should be made to target the beginning of crawler emergence. Crawlers will pick up the Centaur residue as they move around searching for a feeding site. *In-season use of Centaur is not allowed by most pistachio processors. Contact your grower liaison before spraying Centaur in May this year.***

If planning to use a contact material like Fujimite or Acetamiprid to control this generation of Gill's mealybug, the optimal application timing is after most of the crawlers have hatched and moved to the leaves and clusters (1st to 2nd week of June) to get as much direct contact as possible. Fujimite is a new contact, short residual insecticide registered to control Gill's mealybug ([2ee link](#)). Use 2-3 pts/acre in 200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH. Use a silicone surfactant to improve coverage. Fujimite will kill all developmental stages and it provides fast knockdown.

**Be sure to monitor your known Gill's mealybug hot spots carefully to properly time your Centaur or Fujimite Gill's mealybug application. Right now, look for adult mealybugs hiding under the bark or in crevices on the trunk.**

**FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS**

Monitoring for Frosted scale shows that all are 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 21st. There will be some overlap in the crawler hatch between Gill's Mealybug and Frosted Scale. Centaur or Fujimite will also suppress Frosted Scale.



**Frosted Scale Eggs**

**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.**

Applications of CENTAUR are rainfast as soon as they are dry (actual times will vary based on weather conditions)

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