



## Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

**March 13, 2023  
ALERT #2**

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

#### GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS



Gill's Mealybug Under Bark

The emergence of mealybugs from dormancy is later than normal this year due to the cool weather through the beginning of March. Recent monitoring for Gill's Mealybug in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties indicate that most of the mealybugs are still under the bark; however, this past week's rising temperatures have led to some mealybugs starting to move to the buds. The mealybug migration to the buds is expected to increase in the next few days and continue through the end of March.

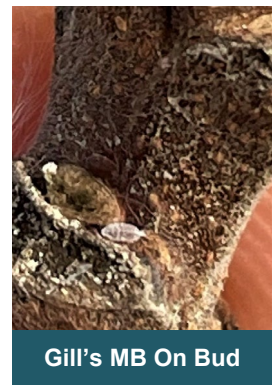
North San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Valley continue to track 1–2 weeks behind the Central Valley.

**Based on current observations, the optimal application window to target overwintering Gill's Mealybug with CENTAUR is projected to be March 21st through the first week of April. If possible, push your applications towards the end of March when exposed populations will peak. A second application of an effective material such as acetamiprid, spirotetramat, or Fujimite may be necessary in May–June to provide complete control in orchards with high mealybug pressure.**

A CENTAUR application at delayed dormant through bud-break is an excellent strategy to reduce the mealybug population and make it more manageable later in the season. All major pistachio processors allow the use of Centaur only at this application window. Always consult with your processor's grower liaison before making a CENTAUR application in pistachios.

**Use CENTAUR at 34.5 to 46 oz/A + a good silicone or NIS surfactant with 150-200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH; orchards with high mealybug pressure should use the higher rate. Open the nozzles to cover the trunk from the soil-line all the way up into the canopy wood. This application can also provide control of Frosted Scale!**

Rain is in the forecast during the optimal CENTAUR application window; therefore, sprays may need to occur in-between rain events. Applications of CENTAUR are rainfast 3-4 hours after application or as soon as they are dry (actual times will vary based on weather conditions).



Gill's MB On Bud

#### FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Frosted scale overwinters as 1st instar on the tips of pistachio twigs. Field scouting in the same blocks as above indicate that the scale is at its overwintering stage (1st instar). Scout for this scale now by looking on the tips of twigs. Overwintering frosted scale are very small, flat, brown to yellowish color, and will always appear on last year's wood growth (a scouting loop may be needed). A delayed dormant application is the best time of the season to treat this pest. CENTAUR at 34.5-40 oz/A + a good surfactant will provide complete control of this pest.

**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.**

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

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Cash Cadena  
Greg Miller  
Braden Cardoza  
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