



Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

March 27, 2023
ALERT #4

GILL'S MEALYBUG FIELD OBSERVATIONS



Gill's MB On Green Tip Bud

Gill's mealybugs are on the move and can be easily found on the buds in pistachio. Recent monitoring in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties indicates that Gill's mealybugs are feeding on the buds. Some mealybugs remain under the bark, but the migration is expected to continue through early April. Buds are beginning to swell and some green tips are now visible, especially in early varieties.

It's "GO TIME!" for treating Gill's mealybug in pistachio with CENTAUR. The optimal window this season is now through the first week in April. Gill's mealybug will remain susceptible for at least another three weeks. Most growers with mealybug problems have already started applications or will start this week as soon as they can get into the orchards. A second application of an effective material such as Fujimite, acetamiprid, or spirotetramat, may be necessary in May-June to provide complete control in orchards with high mealybug pressure.

North San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley typically lag the Central Valley by 1-2 weeks; however, due to recent weather conditions those scouting sites have not been accessible. As a result, up-to-date scouting notes are currently not available. Please default to local assessments/scouting.

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.

Rain continues to be in the forecast this week; 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

A significant portion of the frosted scale population is still susceptible, but some have started molting as we can now see the "frosted" stage. You may still get partial control of this pest with a CENTAUR treatment at this time if you happen to have it in your orchard.

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

Anna Page
Cash Cadena
Greg Miller
Braden Cardoza
Octavio Magallanes
Brandon Renteria

(530) 708-2310
(559) 469-3112
(480) 993-9664
(209) 323-0707
(559) 396-5993
(559) 920-3466

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