

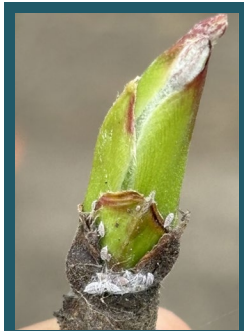


Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

**April 1, 2024
ALERT #4**

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS



Gill's MB Feeding
on Green Tip

Recent monitoring for Gill's Mealybug in the areas of Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties indicates that most pistachio varieties are pushing, with the majority of blocks being at the "green tip" stage. Fruiting buds elongating and leafing out can be seen in some of the early blocks; however, no female buds were blooming yet. Most of the Gill's mealybug population remains as 1st and 2nd instars and can easily be found feeding on the buds.

We are currently at an optimal timing for a CENTAUR application in the Central Valley as the insects are active, exposed, and remain very susceptible for at least the next 10 days. Taking into consideration tree phenology, insect development, and buprofezin residues, CENTAUR applications can be applied from delayed dormant up to bloom.

Any potential rain will have little to no effect on mealybug activity. CENTAUR is rain-fast as soon as it dries on the wood or foliage. Plan to have applications completed by bloom time.

In the North Valley [No New Updates], Gill's mealybugs can be found by peeling back the bark of the pistachio tree and inspecting it with a hand lens. The mealybugs can be identified by the white mass that they create during the winter months. Currently, the mealybugs are still dormant and not actively moving. The pistachio trees have tight buds with no green tip showing. That last few days have been warm in the north valley which should encourage the mealybugs and pistachio trees to come out of dormancy in the next couple of weeks. Wait until you start to see mealybugs feeding on the buds before you make a CENTAUR application (typically 2 – 3 weeks after the Central Valley).

A CENTAUR application at delayed dormant through "green tip" 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. CENTAUR is an insect growth regulator that works by inhibiting the molting process of overwintering mealybugs. CENTAUR has contact, residual, and fuming action that allows it to reach difficult places on the bark or the mealybugs are exposed as they crawl to the buds looking for a place to feed.

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!

FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Field scouting indicates that Frosted scale is molting, and a big portion of the population is no longer susceptible as it has moved to the "frosted stage" If you missed this application window, wait to treat with an insecticide until after crawler hatch which will start in late May.



"Frosted Stage"

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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Central Valley
No. Central Valley
North SJV
South Valley

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