



## Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

**May 21, 2024  
ALERT #8**

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

#### GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS



GMB Nesting & Giving Birth

Recent monitoring in the areas of Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern counties indicates that Gill's mealybugs are at the adult stage, producing eggs and giving birth to mealybug crawlers. Adult mealybugs can be found in cracks and crevices on the limbs and trunk of the trees. Approximately 50-70% of the adults are producing crawlers and more will continue to hatch this week. Because the population is not perfectly synchronized, crawlers will continue to be produced through early June. Currently, crawlers can be found under their mothers in their nesting sites, or on foliage in the inner part of the tree. Adults will all die after they are done giving birth.

**Based on the recent observations, peak crawler emergence will occur later this week.**

**In the North Valley**, adults are nesting and producing eggs. Expect crawlers to emerge in the next week or so.

Most of the orchards that sprayed Centaur in March or early April saw excellent mealybug control; however, because of asynchronization in development it is likely a portion of the population was missed. Locations with moderate to heavy infestation earlier this year will need a follow up application of an effective mealybug material in May or June targeting crawlers to finish clean at harvest. Gill's mealybug control in pistachio often requires a spray program approach to achieve season long control.



Newly Emerged Crawlers

Most pistachio processors do not allow the use of Centaur in-season. Always consult with your processor's grower liaison before making an in-season application of CENTAUR in pistachios. Alternative in-season products you can consider include the following: Fujimite, acetamiprid (if your processor allows it), or spirotetramat (assuming you don't have a resistant population).

If your processor allows CENTAUR in season and you did not use it earlier this year, **NOW** through early June is the time to apply Centaur to control Gill's mealybug in pistachio using 34.5 to 46 oz/A + a good silicone or NIS surfactant with 150-200 GPA with a tractor speed of 2 MPH.

For contact materials such as Fujimite or acetamiprid, it is best to wait until the majority of crawlers have hatched and have moved to the leaves and clusters to feed (this year, first week of June) as they will be very susceptible and exposed. These contact materials provide quick knockdown and short residual control.

Fujimite should be used at 2-3 pts/a in 200 GPA with a NIS or Silicone surfactant and a tractor speed of 2 mph. Best to time to use it is targeting first generation crawler hatch in early June when the majority of crawlers have hatched. This Fujimite application will also control citrus flat mite and Citricola scale nymphs on the foliage.

Applications of CENTAUR and FUJIMITE are rainfast upon drying (actual times will vary based on weather conditions).

#### FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Frosted scale crawlers are starting to come out and will soon be colonizing leaves on which they'll remain feeding for the rest of the season. Frosted scale applications with contact materials: Fujimite, acetamiprid, or Sivanto are best when used in June or any time after that.

**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  
No. Central Valley  
North SJV  
South Valley

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Braden Cardoza  
Octavio Magallanes  
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