





Technical Bulletin for: Citrus Mealybug

Planococcus citri (Risso) • Hemiptera, *Pseudococcidae* • PLACIT



DISTRIBUTION	Native to Asia, now found in North America, South America, Europe, and Oceania.
HOSTS	Citrus
DESCRIPTION	
ADULT	White to light brown, 3 mm (females) to 4.5 mm (males). Females are wingless, while males have wings.
LARVAE	Oval, yellow with red eyes.
EGGS	Light yellow, oval and about 0.3 mm long.
LIFE HISTORY	In warm climates, live long tailed mealybug young are believed to be produced without first producing eggs. Very young nymphs develop through several stages (instars) over several weeks before reaching sexual maturity. Winged males emerge from a tiny fluffy cocoon and fly to the female mealybug to mate.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	(1R,3R)-cis-2,2-Dimethyl-3-isopropenyl-cyclobutanemethanol acetate on a Red Rubber Septum. Lure Longevity: Four (4) weeks.	
TRAP TO USE	Red Paper or Plastic Delta Trap	
MONITORING STRATEGY	In smaller fields, use one trap every 1 to 1 ½ acre. A minimum of two traps should also be used for fields of uneven topography. For larger fields (10 acres or greater) use 1-2 traps per five acres. Traps should be placed at approximately the same height as the crop. Traps should be checked weekly or more frequently, depending on pest population. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROLS	Hedging citrus groves to reduce contact between trees, and thorough cleaning of equipment and harvest materials were useful for reducing the spread of this insect in Arizona. Because mealybugs may be more abundant on some ornamental hosts, growth of these plants near citrus groves should be avoided. These plants should be monitored and treated for infestations to prevent mealybug spread.	

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Alpha Scents, Inc., 360 S. Sequoia Pkwy. Canby, OR 97013
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com