



Gill's Mealybug Pest Alert™

February 15, 2019
ALERT #1

FIELD OBSERVATIONS - Southern and Central San Joaquin Valley

GILL'S MEALYBUG OBSERVATIONS

Gill's mealybug is currently overwintering under bark and in the crevices along the trunk and limbs of the trees. No need to worry about this pest right now. Overwintering mealybug 1st instars will be moving out to feed as soon as the temperatures begin to warm up and the pistachios begin to push. Begin monitoring for this pest at bud-break to give you an idea on whether you'll need to treat at crawler hatch in May.

FROSTED SCALE FIELD OBSERVATIONS

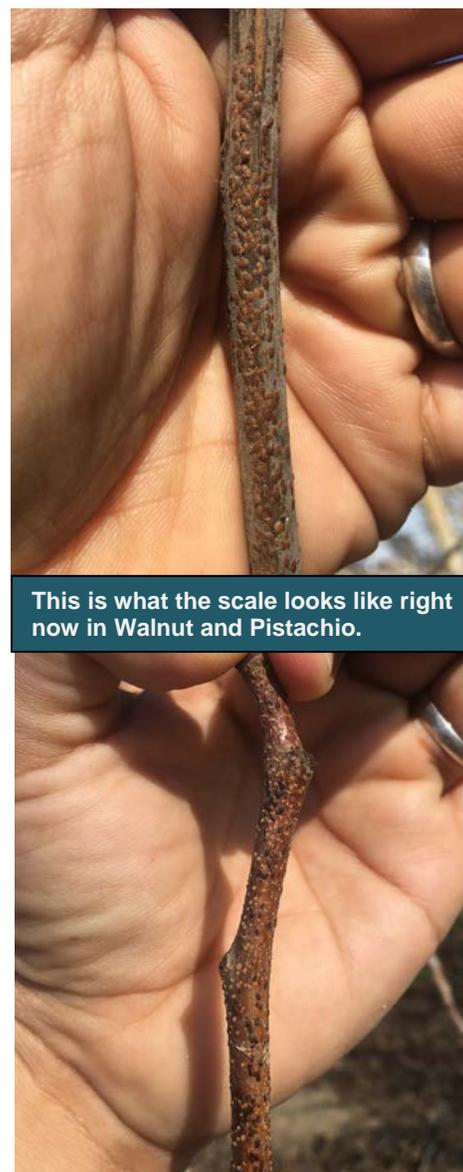
Frosted scale in Pistachio is becoming more and more a pest of concern in the last couple of years. This pest is now being found in pistachio orchards throughout the pistachio growing regions in the state. Frosted scale feeds on shoots and leaves sucking carbohydrate resources out of the tree, and under heavy pressure, it will stunt the growth of the tree and can impact nut quality and size. This scale overwinters as 1st instar on the tips of twigs all over the tree. Look for remnants of dead mature scales which died after giving birth to crawlers in the spring of 2018. If you can find the skeletons of old dead scales, it is very likely you have scale overwintering in the tree. Right now, you want to scout for this scale by looking on the tips of twigs; you may need a scouting loop to be able to see the insect. The overwintering scale stage looks very different compared to the adult stage which is very easy to see. Overwintering frosted scale are very small, flat, brown to yellowish color, and it will always be on last year's wood growth.

If you need to treat for this pest, CENTAUR® is an excellent option this time of year. NOW is the best time of the season to treat for this pest. Frosted scale is very susceptible and exposed to a Centaur application right now. The application needs to be made before the scale begins to molt which will start to occur in early March, depending on the weather.

CENTAUR at 34.5 oz/A + a good surfactant will provide complete control of this pest, and it is very likely you will not have to worry about frosted scale for the remainder of the season. This application will also reduce your overwintering Gill's mealybug population!

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.

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This is what the scale looks like right now in Walnut and Pistachio.