

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

KERN COUNTY (Arvin)

Vine Mealybug (VMB) – Some VMB movement has been observed since March 20th. In the last 2 weeks, the ants have become very active, and there are more VMB up near the spur area and along the trunk. Expect the first egg laying around April 10th on the trunk wood. Most VMB instar are at the adult egg laying stage.

Mites – No mites have been seen at this time. The rains have really kept them down.

TULARE COUNTY (Earlimart to Delano)

VMB – All stages present; more egg masses and early instars – found on the trunk or on roots.

Grape Mealybug (GMB) – Second instars first found April 1; the latest date observed in 15 years; a week later than 2018. They will soon start moving down from the spurs to the cordons and trunk.

Leafhoppers – Adults are on grapes. They will be laying eggs soon. Expect hatch in second half of April or early May.

Mites – Very few mites observed thus far.

FRESNO/TULARE COUNTY

VMB – Scouting in a wine and table grape vineyard in Tulare and Fresno County show vine mealybug on the move. All stages are present under the bark, especially in the clearwing moth worm holes. Easily can find mealybug at the base of spurs which indicates the insect is on the move. There were several adults with egg masses, but these were not hatching yet. Overwintering 1st and 2nd instars are moving around under the bark and may be coming out to feed on the spurs. Lots of ant activity protecting exposed mealybug was observed in both vineyards. Also observed lots of parasitized mealybugs, probably overwintered from last fall.



If a delayed dormant application for vine mealybug was missed, **now** is still a good time to spray to reduced overwintering populations. There are no worries about phytotoxicity post budbreak with APPLAUD, as there is with Lorsban. APPLAUD can be mixed with a mildew spray, but water volume needs to be 150-200 GPA and spray **must** cover all of the trunk and cordon areas.

GMB – Grape mealybug is on the move right now. All eggs hatched about 2-3 weeks ago so crawlers can be found feeding on the spurs. This is the best time to control grape mealybug as the whole generation is synchronized, exposed, and spray coverage is much easier compared to an in-season application.

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.



East SJV
West SJV
No. Central Valley
Northern CA
Account Manager

Ben Letizia
Greg Miller
Cash Cadena
Anna Steinhoff
John Hubbard

(559) 554-6114
(480) 993-9664
(559) 469-3112
(530) 708-2310
(559) 707-7377

bletizia@nichino.net
gmiller@nichino.net
ccadena@nichino.net
asteinhoff@nichino.net
jhubbard@nichino.net