

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS

#### KERN COUNTY (Arvin/Mettler)

**Vine Mealybug (VMB)** – VMB is really on the move this week. All stages present. For the first time this season, observed wet wood spots on the cordons from their feeding. Now it is evident what kind of populations are under the bark. Looks like populations are up this year in problem blocks. Treatments like APPLAUD and others are underway.

**Mites** – Starting to find more spider mites this week. In problem blocks, have seen 1-5 adult colonies with over 5-10 eggs. Finding a number of predators working on them which is good after all the bloom spraying for thrips. Best to have these problem blocks treated by May 20 to keep them down.

#### TULARE COUNTY (Earlimart to Delano)

**VMB** – All stages present. Many newly hatched crawlers. Some moving to leaves, but most are under bark on the trunk and cordons.

**Grape Mealybug (GMB)** – Second through fourth instars under bark on cordons and trunk. Expect egg sacs soon.

**Leafhoppers** – Grape leafhopper started hatching April 27; Variegated April 29. Some third instars present. Expect new adults around May 19 for GLH and May 21 for VLH.

**Mites** – Willamette mites increasing in some vineyards. There are a few Pacific mites.



#### FRESNO COUNTY

**VMB** – Adults, egg masses, and crawlers can be found under the bark from the trunk to the base of the shoots on the cordon. Argentine and native gray ant populations are extremely active as VMB are beginning to produce honeydew. Crawlers were observed on the leaves and fruit touching old wood in some vineyards. This is an excellent time to add APPLAUD to the next fungicide application.

**GMB** – Adults have settled under bark and in protected areas of the vine, and they are laying eggs. Anticipate crawler emergence by the end of May, beginning of June.

**Leafhoppers** – Adults have cycled out, and no leafhopper nymphs were found.

**Mites** – Mite populations are still light in the vineyards that were monitored. Expect cool temperatures and rain in the next week will keep mite numbers low.

#### NORTH VALLEY (Ripon)

**VMB** – With the cooler temperatures this past week, the development of the pest has slowed and appear to be in similar life stages as the prior week. Egg sacs and young instar mealybug can be found underneath the bark of the vine trunks but have not begun climbing up the vine towards the cordon. Ant activity can still be observed in areas where mealybugs are present on the vine.

**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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