





# Technical Bulletin for: Vine Mealybug

*Planococcus ficus* (Signoret) • Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae • PLAFIC



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Found throughout the Mediterranean region, South Africa, parts of Asia and Mexico. Now also found in California.
<b>HOSTS</b>	The primary source is grape. Alternate hosts include coffee, fig, avocado, mango, and pomegranate, oleander, dahlia, bamboo, walnut, <i>Dichrostachys glomerata</i> , mesquite, <i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> , date palm, sycamore, jujube, apple, quince, willow, cacao, and styrax.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>ADULT MOTH</b>	Pinkish body covered with a white mealy wax, about 1/8 inch in length.
<b>LARVAE</b>	Small and orange (first instar).
<b>EGGS</b>	
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	All or most of the vine mealybug's life stages may be present year-round depending on the grape growing region. For example, in the North Coast of California, during winter months, the only life stages found are nymphs located under the bark, on trunk pruning wounds, and below the base of spurs. In other regions during the winter months, vine mealybug eggs, crawlers, nymphs, and adults are under the bark, within developing buds, and on roots. By late spring and summer, vine mealybugs are found on all parts of the vine: hidden under bark and exposed on trunks, cordons, first- and second-year canes, leaves, clusters, and roots.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	(S)- lavandulyl senecioate and (S)-5-Methyl-2-(prop-1-en-2-yl)-hex-4-enyl 3-methyl-2-butenate on red rubber septum. Field life: thirty (30) days. 
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Paper or Plastic Delta 
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	Choose two trap sites for each 20-40 planted acres, placing one trap in the center of the block and the other on the edge near a staging area. These traps can attract vine mealybug males from as far away as 1/4 mile. Attach traps to the trellis wires so that they are in the cluster area. Check traps at least once every 2 weeks through November. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROLS</b>	The female mealybug is unable to fly so it must be carried by humans, equipment, birds, or be present on vines at the time of planting. Do not allow contaminated equipment, vines, grapes, or winery waste near un-infested vineyards. Steam sanitize equipment before moving to uninfested portions of the vineyard. Do not spread infested cluster stems or pomace in the vineyard. To reduce contamination, cover all pomace piles with clear plastic for several weeks, and avoid creating piles that consist predominately of stems.

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