

# Cotton Mealy Bug

*Phenacoccus solenopsis* Mavu poochi



Infested cotton plant (TNAU agritech portal)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Destruction of cotton stalks.</li> <li>• Clean cultivation: Destroy alternate weed hosts growing on field bunds, water channels and wastelands in the area.</li> <li>• Summer ploughing to expose the life stages of the pest.</li> <li>• Remove alternate host plants (e.g. congress weed) and other weed hosts in and around fields.</li> <li>• Do not throw uprooted weeds in water channel.</li> <li>• Use the crop rotation practices (e.g. rice or corn based on the availability of water and awareness of husbandry practices) and burn the plant debris to clean field</li> <li>• It is important to remember that mealybug crawlers spread through human interventions such as spraying, irrigations, frequent movement through the infected area etc., so avoid these activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Observe for: Sooty mould on plant parts. Presence of ant colonies on the plants.</li> <li>• Take action when 5% of the plants are infested.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biological Method: Encourage the activity of predators like <i>Cryptolaemus montrouzieri</i>, <i>Cheilomenes sexmaculata</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mealybugs at initial stage appear in small pockets, therefore, recommended insecticides are applied only in the infested spot, not in the entire crop.</li> <li>• Locate ant colonies and destroy them with drenching of chlorpyrifos 20 EC @ 2.5 ml/l of water or by application of 5% malathion dust @ 25 kg/ha. This operation can be carried out round the year</li> <li>• Recommended doses of insecticides of carbamate (carbaryl 50 WP @ 2.5 kg/ha or thiodicarb 75 WP @ 625 gm/ha) and organophosphate (profenofos 50 EC @ 1,250 ml/ha, quinolphos 25 EC @ 2,000 ml/ha, acephate 75 SP @ 2,000 gm/ha or chlorpyrifos 25 EC @ 5l/ha) &amp; add commercial stickers, spreaders or the khadhi soap (20gm / 10 lit of water) to degrade the waxy coating and spray rotation-wise in consecutive sprays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chlorpyrifos: WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous), organophosphate. Malathion: WHO Class III (Slightly hazardous), organophosphate.</li> <li>• Carbaryl: WHO Class II. Thiodicarb: WHO Class II, (Moderately Hazardous). Profenofos: WHO Class II, (Moderately Hazardous). Quinalophos: WHO Class II, (Moderately Hazardous). Acephate: WHO Class II, (Moderately Hazardous). Chlopyrifos: WHO Class II, (Moderately Hazardous), organophosphate</li> </ul>

## India

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