

Mealybug in mango

Rastrococcus iceryoides (*Rastrococcus invadens*)

 <p>2-3mm whitish scale insect sucking juice from leaves (Thaumaturgist).</p>  <p>Colony of mealybugs attacking stem (Thaumaturgist).</p>  <p>Cluster of mealybugs sucking juice from fruits (Thaumaturgist).</p>	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prune tress to remove highly infested damaged branches. • Plant non-commercial papaya around the field to keep the mealybugs off the field. • Remove fallen old leaves from previous season. However, if only few insect pests and no major diseases are in your crop, then leave leaves as they improve the soil, and reduce water evaporation. • Remove weeds from field borders during cropping periods to avoid alternative host to the bugs. • Plant coreopsis, fennel and other flowering plants to attract beneficial small wasps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check stem joints, under leaves and other protected areas of the plant for cotton wool like small ball insects. • Mealybug insects are about 2-3mm and have a white waxy body. • Sticky leaves indicate mealybugs due to the secretions they produce to attach themselves to the plants. • Look for wilting, yellowing or deformed leaves on infected plants. • Consider action when finding 5 to 20 colonies of mealybugs per small tree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brush off or crush mealybugs on small scale farms. • Blast bugs off with a strong stream of water, often effective in the early stages of infestation. • At larger infestations, spray with a mixture of dishwashing liquid and water. Use equal parts of each and stir to mix rather than shaking to avoid excess foam. • Buy and release mealybug predator <i>Cryptolaemus montrouzieri</i>, known as “mealybug destroyer” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When using a pesticide or botanical, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, pre-harvest interval, max number of sprays, restricted re-entry interval. Do not empty into drains and water sources. • Always consult the recent registered pesticide list from Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana. • Use insecticidal soap such as Alata 25mg/15l of water, or liquid dish detergent- 2 teaspoons /1 gallon of water, baby shampoo- 2 teaspoons /1 gallon of water • Mix insecticidal soap (as above), Jatropha oil and water together (1 soap: ½ J oil:1 water) and apply with a spray bottle or knapsack sprayer • Use Dimethoate – based products (such as Dimex 400EC, Sumitex 20EC and others). Usually applied at 15mls/15lits at early signs of infection. Double-check product label. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not WHO classified, but unlikely to present acute hazard in normal use. Harmful to predatory mites and parasitoids. p.h.i. 21-28 days; r.e.i. 2 days; Spray far away from water habitats, poultry and honey bees. Never spray flowering trees • Not WHO classified, but unlikely to present acute hazard in normal use. Harmful to predatory mites and parasitoids. p.h.i. 21-28 days; r.e.i. 2 days; Spray far away from water habitats, poultry and honey bees. Never spray flowering trees. • WHO class II (moderately acute hazardous). Harmful against predator mites, flower bugs, lacewings and lady birds. p.h.i. 28 days; r.e.i. 14 days



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