



Mealybugs on yam

Dysmicoccus brevipes, *Planococcus* spp.

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
 <p>Adult female <i>Dysmicoccus brevipes</i> (Crown Copyright)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve natural enemies (e.g. parasitic wasps, ladybird beetles) by minimizing the use of insecticides • Avoid heaping of tubers to allow light and air through • Situate yam farms away from previously infested fields to avoid carrying mealybugs into storage • Practice crop and land rotation with cereals (e.g. maize, rice, sorghum or millet) to reduce risk of field infestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mealybugs are a problem in prolonged storage of yams. Monitor mealybug populations after 3 months of storage • Mealybugs prefer warm humid conditions and spread by crawling between tubers. They cause damage to tubers by sucking the sap from their tissues • Mealybugs look like oval-shaped flightless bugs that have cottony white powdery appearance and sooty moulds • Inspect twice a week by looking out for white powdery mass on the surfaces of tubers • Take action when at least one tuber is infested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spray harvested tubers or yam plants with a steady stream of water (reasonably high pressure) on the host plant to knock off mealybugs • Spray soap solution (potassium soaps e.g. "alata samina", "gardian") (add 10-15 tablespoons of liquid soap in 16 L Knapsack and spray on tubers if infested when necessary) • Treat yam tubers with neem seed extract. Rate: 1 match box of dry seed/1litre of water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no recommended insecticides to control mealybugs on yam in Ghana at this time 	
 <p>Mealybugs on yam tuber (Jerry-Coleby-Williams.net)</p>					



Ghana

CREATED/UPDATED: March 2016

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