

Pink hibiscus mealybug on cocoyam

Maconellicoccus hirsutus Pink hibiscus mealybug, pink mealybug, hibiscus mealybug



M. hirsutus (pink hibiscus mealybug); adult females in a field infestation. USA (@Jeffrey W. Lotz/Florida Division of Plant Industry/Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Bugwood.org)



M. hirsutus (pink hibiscus mealybug); adult male, in a field infestation. USA (@Florida Division of Plant Industry/Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Bugwood.org)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use clean cuttings from certified sources. Mealybugs can travel long distances on cuttings. • Use tolerant varieties if available • Do not plant near an infested field. Mealybugs spread locally via wind and walking • To prevent the spread of the insect, avoid rotating or planting near alternative hosts; citrus, avocado, carambola, fig, guava, sugarcane, cassava, mango, asparagus, beans, beets, cabbage, peanuts, pigeon pea, cucumber, lettuce, pepper, pumpkin, tomato 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for plant symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stunted growth at growing tips • In susceptible plants, new growth forms cabbage-like clusters of leaves or may cause crumpling of the leaves • Distorted leaves and possibly defoliation, bunchy top • Sooty mold on leaves and stems • Look for the mealybugs (they can be found on leaves and stems): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs: tiny, pink • Crawlers (young): 0.3 mm long, pink/greyish-pink, covered in a white powder • Adults: 2.5-4 mm long, soft-bodied, elongate oval, slightly flattened. Males have one pair of wings and long antennae. • Ants 'farm' the honeydew secreted by mealybugs so they may be found on and around the plants • The pink hibiscus mealybug can look similar to <i>Paracoccus marginatus</i>, but <i>P. marginatus</i> is has a yellow body rather than pink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the mealybug ladybird <i>Cryptolaemus montrouzieri</i>, or parasitoids <i>Anagyrus kamali</i> and <i>Achrysopophagus</i> sp. as biological control if available in your area

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.