

# Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Jeffrey W. Lotz, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org.

**Common Name:** Longtailed mealybug

**Scientific Name:** *Pseudococcus longispinus*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera; Pseudococcidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		Do not produce an egg sac; gives birth to live nymphs.
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	6-8mm	The nymphs are similar to the adults except that the filaments around the edges are shorter.
<b>Adult</b>	3-4mm, 6-7mm with tail	They are white and brownish in appearance and have wax thread tails that can be longer than their entire body.
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Piercing sucking

**Host plant/s:** Wide variety including begonia, citrus, dracaena, gardenia, ivy, impatiens, philodendron, tomato, coleus, poinsettia, fig, fuschia, ferns, begonia, pyracantha, holly, yew, and rhododendron

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):**

Mealybugs suck the phloem sap. They can reduce vigor when they feed in abundance. They also foul plants with sticky honeydew that encourages the growth of blackish sooty mold, which degrades the fruit quality and can cause parts to wilt and disfigure.

**References:**

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