

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Eugene E. Nelson, Bugwood.org



Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

**Common Name:** Grape mealybug

**Scientific Name:** *Pseudococcus maritimus* (Ehrhorn)

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Elongated oval shape</li><li>- Salmon colored</li><li>- Laid in masses of waxy filaments</li></ul>
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Salmon colored</li><li>- Have well developed legs during the first instar and are known as crawlers</li><li>- Covered in a light white waxy coating</li></ul>
<b>Adult</b>	5 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Look similar to the nymph</li><li>- Have a well-developed ring of waxy filaments around the sides of its body</li><li>- Males are much smaller than the females</li></ul>
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>		

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Both nymphs and adults have piercing-sucking mouthparts.

**Host/s:** Pears, grapes, and apricots.

**Description of Damage:** The grape mealybug secretes honeydew, which is the most damaging. When the honeydew lands on the fruit, it causes a coarse, black russet. Damage is most common in the low centers of the trees or in the tops. If there is a large infestation of mealybugs, they enter the calyx end of the fruit and cause contamination. Their feeding also softens the tissue in the fruit and around the seed cavity.

**References:**

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs: Garden Insects of North America*. Princeton University Press.

Burts, E., & Dunley, J. (1993). Orchard Pest Management Online. Retrieved February 29, 2016, from <http://jenny.tfrec.wsu.edu/opm/displayspecies.php?pn=130>

Loh, T., Moisset, B., & Belov, V. (2009, February 24). Species *Pseudococcus maritimus* - Grape Mealybug. Retrieved September 11, 2017, from <http://bugguide.net/node/view/255023>