

Pest Profile



Photo credit: [Florida Division of Plant Industry](#), Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bugwood.org; [United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs](#), USDA Agricultural Research Service, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

Synonyms: Grape mealybug, grapevine mealybug, pink mealybug, hibiscus mealybug

Scientific Name: *Maconellicoccus hirsutus*

Order and Family: Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	.3-.4mm	Orange when laid, slowly turn pink over time.
Larva/Nymph	Varies on sex and instar level	Both sexes of nymph look like smaller female adults. Males have a 4 th instar during which wing buds form inside a cocoon of mealy wax.
Adult	3mm	Females: Pink coloration, wingless, covered in white waxy coating. Males: Smaller with 1 set of wings and 2 long tails. Females are covered in waxy secretions, colonies appear to be white waxy deposits.
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Sucking

Host plant/s: They feed on hibiscus plants, ornamental and agricultural citrus plants, as well as coffee, sugarcane, annonas, plums, guava, mango, okra, sorrel, teak, peanut, grape vines, maize, asparagus, cotton, soybean, and cocoa. They prefer to feed on new seedlings or newly sprouting branches on older plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Toxic saliva injected while feeding causes contortion and curling of leaf ends of plants. The toxins may inhibit buds from flowering and fruits may be deformed during development. The honeydew excretions promotes mold and high infestations can be deadly.

References:

Hoy, M. A. (2014, July). *Featured Creatures*. Retrieved from University of Florida Department of Entomology and Nematology:
<http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/mealybug/mealybug.htm>

The Pink Hibiscus Mealybug. (n.d.). United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Retrieved from <https://www.invasive.org/publications/aphis/phmpaler.pdf>