

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** United States National Collection of Scale Insects Photographs, USDA Agricultural Research Service- [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

**Common Name:** Mexican mealybug

**Scientific Name:** *Phenacoccus gossypii*

**Order and Family:** Hemiptera; Pseudococcidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	5 mm	Egg sac is white, dense, and narrow. It's usually bigger than the female.
<b>Nymph</b>	<3 mm	Nymphs are small, yellowish, and have white waxy secretions.
<b>Adult</b>	3-4 mm	Adults are oval shaped and grayish, covered with a thin waxy secretion. There are 3 parallel rows of small waxy tufts down the back. Males are gnat-like with only two wings and 4 waxy posterior filaments.

**Type of feeder:** Piercing sucking

**Host plants:** The Mexican mealybug feeds on many ornamental plants such as chrysanthemums, English ivy, geraniums, aralia, gynura, hollyhock, ixia, lantana, and poinsettias.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** These pests will feed on the leaves, stems, flowers, and will sometimes be found on the upper roots. They remove the sap from plants, which will cause wilting, yellowing, and stunting. The mealybugs and the ovisacs will also heavily disfigure infested plants.

**References:**

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