



MEALYBUGS

Host Plants and Description

Mealybugs attack both indoor and outdoor plants, but are most commonly seen indoors on houseplants and outdoors on flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and yews. Their rounded, white hairy bodies resemble tiny tufts of cotton. Unlike other scale insects, they remain mobile through all their life stages. Most often they are found in small groups on the underside of leaves, or on stems or branches.

Plant Damage and Symptoms

These sucking insects cause pale foliage, stunted growth, and sometimes leaf or bud drop. Like other scale insects, they secrete ant-attracting honeydew, which is often followed by the growth of dark sooty mold.

Controls

Eliminate small populations with a forceful spray of water, or try swiping with a cotton swab dipped in alcohol. Insecticidal soap is also effective. For more severe infestations on trees and shrubs, Malathion or acephate are recommended. Spray thoroughly and forcefully, and repeat the treatment in two weeks.