

Mini data sheet on *Phenacoccus gossypii*

Added in 1998 - Deleted in 2001

Reasons for deletion:

*Phenacoccus gossypii* has been included in EPP0 Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPP0 member countries. In 2001, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

*Phenacoccus gossypii* (Hemiptera: Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) - Mexican mealybug

Why	<i>P. gossypii</i> came to our attention because it is considered as a pest of ornamentals in south-eastern USA.
Where	Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, USA (many southern states, Hawaii).
On which plants	Many ornamental plants (e.g. <i>Althea rosea</i> , <i>Aralia</i> , chrysanthemum, <i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> , <i>Gynura</i> , <i>Hedera helix</i> , <i>Ixia</i> , <i>Lantana</i> ). It attacks cotton, and is reported as a minor pest of lima beans ( <i>Phaseolus lunatus</i> ) in the warmer parts of USA.
Damage	Wilting and stunting of attacked plants. Plants are disfigured due to the presence of mealybugs.
Pathway	Ornamental plants for planting (cut flowers?) from infested countries.
Possible risks	Attacks many ornamentals plants. Tropical species which could be a risk for ornamentals grown under glass. Control may be difficult.
Source(s)	Ben-Dov, Y. (1994) A systematic catalogue of the mealybugs of the world (Insecta: Homoptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae and Putoidae) with data on geographical distribution, host plants, biology and economic importance. Intercept Limited, Andover, UK, 686 pp. Insect and related pests of flowers and foliage plants. Some important, common and potential pests in the southeastern United States. edited by Baker, J.R. (1994) North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, US, 106 pp.

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