

Papaya Mealybug

Paracoccus marginatus Williams

Be on the alert for this significant pest of fruits, ornamentals, and vegetables.

If you have any questions or wish to report an infestation, please contact the nearest office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine or your State department of agriculture.



Infested papaya leaf and fruits.



Papaya leaf wilt resulting from papaya mealybug infestation.

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Life stages of the papaya mealybug: Adult females are wingless and about 3 mm long with a yellowish body and body fluid. They are covered with a white wax with lateral and caudal wax filaments. Adult males are smaller, have wings, and live for only a few days. Eggs are also yellowish and laid in a cottony egg sac.

Illustration credits:

APHIS photos by Dale E. Meyerdirk. Life-cycle drawing by APHIS' Joel P. Floyd.