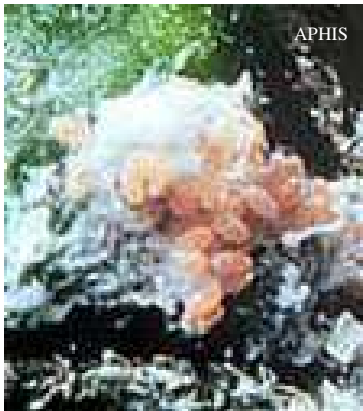


PEST: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*)

BASIC PROFILE: PHM has hundreds of host plants, including many crop species and ornamental plants. Hibiscus is the preferred host. Adult females are ~3 mm (1/8") in size, are pink and are covered with a white waxy secretion. Males have wings and are rarely seen. Feeding by females and immatures causes curled leaves, dieback and ultimately plant death. The white waxy substance is a telltale sign of their presence. Primary means of spread for PHM is through movement of infested nursery stock.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF has conducted visual surveys for PHM in residential areas where infestations were found but inspections are now limited to routine nursery grower and NSD site visits. Male pheromone traps may be placed in outlying areas to detect unseen infestations. In the past, parasitoid wasps were released as part of a biological control ('biocontrol') program. Homeowners were asked not to spray or trim plants in an attempt to get the wasps established. Chemical treatments are not effective on PHM. Established wasps now successfully manage a high percentage of the PHM population.



Eggs



Nymphs



Female



Male

