



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

1710 Soscol Avenue, Suite 3
Napa, CA 94559-1311
www.countyofnapa.org

Main: (707) 253-4357
Fax: (707) 253-4881

Tracy Cleveland
Agricultural Commissioner

HOW CAN I HELP TO PREVENT VMB SPREAD IN NAPA COUNTY?

“The female and nymphal mealybugs are wingless and are unable to fly so they must be carried by humans, equipment, wind, birds, or be present on vines at the time of planting.”

UC IPM Pest Management Guidelines: Grape
UC ANR Publication 3448

When working in vine mealybug infested vineyard blocks, one should take the following precautions:

- Remove any soil, debris, or insects from shoes with a stiff-bristled brush when leaving the infested block(s) prior to entering a non-infested block.
- After working in VMB-infested vineyards, fieldworkers should remove any potentially contaminated clothing prior to entering non-infested blocks. It is recommended that workers wear disposable coveralls. After workers leave infested blocks, coveralls should be removed, double-bagged and disposed of in a manner in which they will be buried at a landfill.
- Equipment should be thoroughly cleaned of soil, plant debris, and insects by the best available means, such as a hot water and detergent solution sprayed with a high-pressure power washer. Cleaning should occur before equipment is moved from any infested block(s) to any non-infested block(s).
- All vehicles that have entered an infested block should be thoroughly cleaned of soil, plant debris, and insects by the best available means such as a hot water and detergent solution sprayed with a high-pressure power washer. Cleaning should occur before vehicles are moved from infested blocks to any non-infested blocks or off of the property.
- All vegetative material and debris (such as vine prunings) resulting from any cultural practices performed within an infested block should remain within the block.
- During harvesting, growers should notify wineries receiving fruit from vine mealybug infested or suspect vineyards.

For additional information regarding vine mealybug, please contact the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (707) 253-4357.



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VINE MEALYBUG: INFORMATION FOR NAPA COUNTY WINERIES

Vine mealybug (VMB) is a serious pest that was first introduced in Napa County around 2002 and continues to spread throughout the County.

VMB feeding produces copious amounts of sticky excrement or “honeydew”. Infested vines can be covered with mealybugs and honeydew, coating the trunks, leaves, and clusters.

The movement of fruit harvested from infested vineyards represents a possible mechanism of spread of this pest throughout Napa County.

Following are recommendations for winery staff and crush pad operators regarding VMB:

- Recognize the signs of mealybug-infested clusters (VMB poster available at Napa County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.)
- Ask growers delivering fruit if winegrapes are from VMB infested or suspect vineyards.
- If winery receives fruit from a VMB-infested vineyard or vineyard suspected of being infested, please take the following precautions:
 - o Crush the loads as soon as they arrive at the winery.
 - o Thoroughly clean all bins, gondolas, and trailers that held the fruit.
 - o **Properly dispose of the stems** - there could still be live vine mealybugs or viable eggs on stems. Do not spread the stems in non-infested vineyards. Disposal options include:
 - Return stems to the vineyard of origin.
 - Promptly send stems to a commercial composting site.
 - If composting on site, be sure the stems are not placed near vineyards.
 - Stems from very small loads could be placed in black plastic bags, sealed and placed in a sunny location. The heat generated inside the bags will kill any vine mealybugs.

For additional information regarding vine mealybug, please contact the Napa County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office at (707) 253-4357.