

A Bug's Life

Hawthorn mealybug

Phenacoccus dearnessi

Fun facts

- Feed on sap of twigs and small branches
- Full grown by May or early June
- Overwinter as late stage nymph on tree trunks and larger branches
- 1 generation per year, but may have an extended season
- Other host plants include mountainash and juneberry

Identification

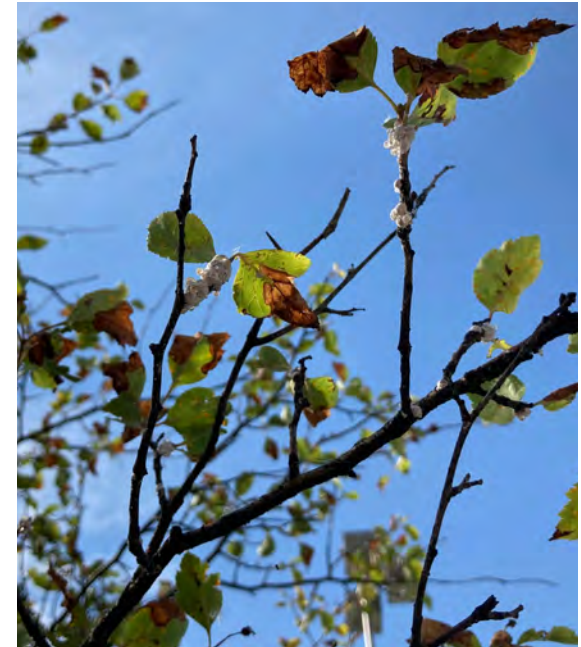
Damage: Twig dieback, large amounts of honey dew under plant, which allows sooty mold to grow

Mealybug: 1/8" long, round, red body covered in white waxy, cottony material, immature forms are reddish-brown

Adult male: small, gnat-like insect with wings

Management

- Choose less susceptible or resistant cultivars to prevent mealybugs
- Treat in spring and fall with horticultural oil when nymphs are moving from trunk to twigs and vice versa
- Soil applied systemic insecticides are effective with sufficient time to translocate to new growth



Photos: J. Green