

## **Pink (hibiscus) mealybug**

The pink mealybug or pink hibiscus mealybug is classified by the International Plant Protection Convention as a quarantine pest of worldwide distribution in tropical and subtropical regions.

This species was officially detected in the municipality of Mexicali, Baja California on December 1999. In the face of this situation, the federal government, through the National Service for Agro-Alimentary Public Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) implemented the corresponding National Emergency Device pursuant to article 46 of the Federal Plant Health Law, to reduce the infestation levels of the pest and prevent its dispersal.

The damages caused by the mealybug are the deformation of leaves, branches and fruits. The mealybug injects a toxic saliva alters the growth of the plant and secretes a honeydew that fosters the growth of fungi in the leaves, which hampers their adequate development and causes the death of the plant if not addressed in a timely fashion.

The campaign against the pink mealybug is currently in place.

