

Eating the Mealy Bugs

The long tailed mealy bug has been causing more than usual trouble to avocado orchards in San Diego County, says Dean Palmer, deputy agricultural commissioner. Large numbers of parasites (cryptolemus) have been liberated and the mealy bugs are well under control. Larger numbers of parasites are required to control the long tailed mealy bug than other varieties. The young are born alive and disperse rapidly. Other types do not hatch for some time after the eggs are laid, and parasites in feeding on egg masses give more effective control, not having to chase the critters.