

PESTS OF AVOCADO IN FLORIDA

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Most pests of avocado in Florida are indirect pests affecting foliage and flowers. Pests of foliage include omnivorous loopers, i.e., *Epimeces detexta*, the avocado lacebug, *Pseudacysta perseae*, the avocado leafroller, *Gracillaria perseae*. Flower and fruit feeders include the mirids *Dagbertus faciatus* (Reuter) and *D. olivaceous* and the thrips *Frankliniella bispinosa*. Secondary pests include *Oligonychus yothersi* and *Panonychus citri* both causing leaf bronzing. Lately, the mite *Tegolophus perseaeiflorae* was discovered in Florida affecting leaves and possibly flowers, fruits. Despite the presence of various effective native biological control agents and development of integrated pest management techniques for some pests such as mirids, pests continue to be entirely controlled through use of chemical products.