

Mealybugs

Mealybugs are un-armoured scale type insects found in moist warm climates such as greenhouses. They feed on the juices of our Orchid plants.



Female Mealybugs are wingless but have legs and can move. Females feed on plant sap normally in roots and other crevices. They attach themselves to the plant and secrete a powdery wax layer (therefore the name mealybug) used for protection while they suck the plant juices. They eat by piercing their mouth parts into the plant and sucking the plant fluids. They also secrete toxic saliva into the plant tissue. The leaves turn yellow, become distorted and will fall off.

The males on the other hand, have wings and are short lived. They do not feed at all as an adult and only live to fertilize the females. They resemble fluffy gnats.

First Aid

Using a cotton swab dab the adults with alcohol and spray the plant with either the Murphy Oil Soap mixture or the Hydrogen Peroxide mixture to kill the eggs. (See other Orchid Doctor Articles for these formulas)