

# Is your postharvest oil effective against mealybug?

Postharvest oil should be part of an approach where a series of treatments used together control mealybug. Successful treatment relies on complete coverage, especially under the fruit calyx. This guide shows the appearance of mealybug and fruit after oil treatment.

## Treatment at label rates and with good coverage

Healthy mealybug



Mealybug just after exposure to postharvest oil. Insects are completely covered in oil and will die within 24 hrs



A dead mealybug 24hrs after exposure to postharvest oil (note significant dehydration of insect)



## Treatment below label rates and with poor coverage

Mealybug just after exposure to postharvest oil. The insect is partially covered in oil and is likely to survive



Mealybug 24hrs after exposure to postharvest oil. The insect has survived.



### Importance of monitoring

When monitoring effectiveness of oil there are two main things to look for:

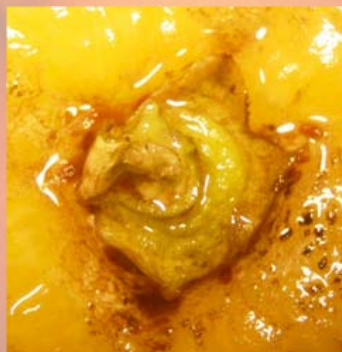
1. That the oil application has completely covered the insect (see pictures above and right)
2. That underneath the calyx is wet, i.e. the oil has successfully 'crept' under the sepals (see fruit images below)

## Postharvest oil treatment on mealybug infested fruit

Citrus fruit showing infestation of mealybug. Small instars of the insect can easily crawl under the calyx and into crevices.



Citrus fruit just after oil treatment. The calyx wetness should extend to underneath the sepals.



Citrus fruit 4 hrs after oil treatment (without further rinsing), the water has evaporated and left the oil. Mealybug are unlikely to survive beyond 24 hrs



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