Mealybugs reach maturity in eight or ten weeks. Unlike armored and soft scales, they are able to move about throughout their lives. Mealybugs extract plant sap from leaves, twigs and branches, thereby, reducing plant vigor. Heavy infestation can cause twig dieback and defoliation of small branches. Honeydew produced by mealybugs is responsible for sooty mold accumulation on the affected plant. Ants feed on the honeydew and when ants are observed, plants should be examined closely for these sucking insects.

**Control:** Use ultra-fine or other insecticidal oil sprays. Products containing carbaryl (Sevin) and acephate will also kill any natural enemies that are present. Di-Syston granules and products containing Imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub Insect Control) are systemics with long endurance.

**Memo:** Always follow label rates and recommendations when using pesticides. Test spray new pesticides or pesticides new to your yard/facility on a small scale to check for plant safety before widespread use.