

# 001

E X O T I C

*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*

## Pink Hibiscus Mealybug

### Field Recognition

Body color pink, about 3 mm long, no to few lateral (side) wax filaments, body fluid red to pink in color. Ovisacs are present covering pink to orange eggs. Feeding from pink hibiscus mealybug can cause twisted or distorted foliage. High populations may result in leaf drop.

### Known Southeastern Distribution

Established in Florida (2002) and limited populations detected in Louisiana (2006) and Texas (2007).

### Common Hosts

Over 200 known hosts occur, but the most common host detected to-date is Hibiscus. Pink hibiscus mealybug could be a problematic pest for some of major agronomic crops in the southeastern U.S. if established populations are nearby. Cotton, a close relative of hibiscus, is of particular concern.

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**Bunchy Top**



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**Droplet of Red Body Fluid**



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**White Wax on Abdomen**

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