

PEST: Woolly Whitefly (*Aleurothrixus floccosus*)

BASIC PROFILE: WW is a whitefly pest of citrus. WW eggs are brown, elongated and are laid on the underside of mature citrus leaves in a circular pattern. Immatures may be green (young instar) or brown (older instars). Pupae develop waxy filaments that give them a woolly appearance. Adults are ~ 2-3 mm (<1/8 inch) and are yellowish white. Sooty mold often is associated with the WW. There are several naturally occurring tiny wasp parasites that assist in biocontrol of WW. Although these wasp populations may lag behind those of the WW, they work better than chemical controls.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF may be asked to conduct surveys for WW in the future. Survey would be accomplished by selecting high-risk sites (greenhouses, citrus nurseries) or through following up on public reports, LSU reports, or shipments of infested material that may enter the state. There are no federal restrictions in place. Natural biocontrol through wasp parasitism is expected to be the preferred management method.

