



## PEST OF THE MONTH

February

### Mealy Bug

Mealy bug is one of the hardest pests to control. Their waxy outer shell with its white fringes gives it a protective layer against chemical pest control and many potential natural predators. Mealy bug have similar traits to Aphids, they both suck plant juices and release honeydew which attracts ants and allows fungus to grow easily. Over time the damage done by mealy bugs to plants cause leaves to yellow and fall, causing the overall value and attractiveness to decrease.

Mealy bugs average in size of about 5 mm long, are white, almost powdery, in color with small white fringes along the outside of their bodies.

**Cryptolaemus** are part of the ladybug family and their specialty is mealy bug. Adult *Cryptolaemus* and their larvae eat all stages of mealy bug, making them very efficient biological control of mealy bug. *Cryptolaemus* are black-brown in color with orange tinged head and abdomen. Adults are 4 mm in size and their white larvae are up to 13 mm long which look in shape and color very similar to mealy bug, except are larger in size and more active. *Cryptolaemus* lay their eggs inside the egg masses of the mealy bug, which helps both in the reproduction of *cryptolaemus* and stops the cycle of mealy bugs.

1636 East Island Hwy  
NanOOSE Bay, B.C. V9P 9A5  
Tel: 250-468-7912  
Fax: 250-468-9484