Insects That May Show Up In Southwest Michigan Vineyards
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Grape Mealybug

The grape mealybug can occasionally become a pest in vineyards in Michigan. Mealybugs overwinter under the bark or in crevices on the grape vine and move up onto foliage and fruit as they develop. Older vineyards that have large trunks with lots of hiding places will have typically see more mealybugs than younger vineyards. Maintaining levels of natural enemies in vineyards is usually enough to keep populations in check, but if populations are high enough, a spring insecticide spray may be warranted. Mealybug feeding on grapes causes minimal damage to the vines, however, the honeydew secretions the mealybugs exude can cause the growth of sooty mold on the grapes. This mold can cause grapes to be rejected at harvest. If you suspect you have a problem with mealybugs, look for this black sooty mold on your grapes as harvest approaches. If there is a lot of it an insecticide spray may be warranted the next spring.