

# Scymnus or Mealy Bug?

## Friend



The genus **SCYMNUS** includes many species of small black, brown, mottled or spotted beetles.



Scymnus larvae

The larvae are usually covered with a white wax and are often mistaken for mealybugs.

They feed on mealybugs, scale insects, aphids, red spiders, mites and insect eggs. Adults are about 1/12 inch (2 mm) long.

## Foe

### MEALYBUG LARVAE

are much smaller – 1/8 inch (2-3mm) and are found on houseplants or plants in green-houses. They cannot survive outside in our climate. Always inspect new plants – if they have mealybugs throw them out as they can spread quickly to other plants!



Mealybugs

**Image:** Scymnus images – Elaine Sedgman

Mealy Bug image – Çarl Davies CSIRO, Wiki Commons

**Sources:** Gilkeson, L. *Natural Insect, Weed & Disease Control*, 2013. [www.lindagilkeson.ca](http://www.lindagilkeson.ca)  
Western State University. <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/crop-protection/opm/lady-beetles/>