

South American Palm Weevil

WHAT:

Found in San Ysidro in May 2011. This invasive pest came from South America and has made its way as far North as Oceanside and San Marcos. Females can lay 120-150 eggs in a 30-day space, and populations as low as 30 can kill a palm within a matter of days to weeks. They feed on meristematic tissue which results in death. Palms are limited in defense and once meristematic tissue is consumed there is no possibility of regeneration. This insect has been found to host trees regardless of health.

WHERE:

The list of species susceptible to this pest continues to grow. Previously limited to Canary Island date palms, their diet has expanded to ingest: date palms (*P. dactylifera*), queen palm, sago palm, fan palms (blue incl.), and pygmy date palms.

SYMPTOMS:

Fronds falling from the center of a crown (flattened appearance), putrid odor, pupal casings around base (spindled palm fibers housing larvae), yellowing leaves, tunneling holes in fronds and notching on fronds

HOW:

Preventing and controlling this insect is limited to chemical application and removal of dead specimen trees in a timely and appropriate manner.

Consult with one of our Urban Forestry Experts to find out treatment options for this pest based on most recent scientific findings and field study.

Prescribe a preventative program curated for your trees today.



Feeding in center of crown (meristem) and fronds collapsing



Pupal casings



Tree Life CA protecting a Canary Island date palm that was able to be regenerated 'q'qatxa



Phoenix dactylifera found in La Jolla suffering feeding



Phoenix dactylifera in La Jolla

Alder tree bark stained from alder borer