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New Palm Diseases and Cold Damage

New Palm Disease: Texas Phoenix Palm Decline or TPPD.

There is a new disease in Florida that is killing off Canary Island Date palms, edible date palms, Sylvester palms and Sabal/Cabbage palms. This disease has been identified in Central Florida and is expected to reach Southern Florida unknowingly through movement of palms that occur widely in Florida, by spreading the disease by moving its vector and infested hosts.

TPPD is a phytoplasma disease similar to that of lethal yellowing disease of palms observed in the past in Florida. TPDD is a fatal systemic disease that kills palms quickly and is spread by sap-feeding insects known as plant hop pers. Symptoms of TPPD are similar to lethal yellowing except that root decay has been observed with TPPD.

Symptoms include:

- Premature drop of all fruits at one time
- Discoloration of oldest leaves
- Death of the spear leaf
- Decay of the root system



Diagnosis of TPPD is based on the palms symptoms and is incurable. If the spear leaf is dead then the palm will not make it and removal of that palm is recommended. The most effective way to prevent this disease is by injecting the palms with the antibiotic oxytetracycline HCl also known as OTC. Treatments should occur every 4 months for the life of the palm.

Reference: University of Florida IFAS Extension **Publication #PP243**
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp163>

New Disease of Queen Palms and Mexican Fan Palms: Fusarium Decline

There is another disease claiming the life of Queen Palms and Mexican Fan Palms in Florida. This disease quickly kills these palms with in a few months of the initial symptoms. There is no cure once a palm is infected, and no preventive fungicide treatments are recommended.

The disease is probably spread by wind into new sites. Once it has become established, it could also spread through pruning tools used to trim infected palms. Pruning tools are being recommended to be sterilized after each palm is trimmed. Also if a palm dies from this disease have it removed and a palm of the same kind should not be replanted into that same site.



More Information? **239.498.1187** or Sales@EstateLandscaping.com
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Symptoms include:

- The lowest leaves turn brown but do not hang down
- Youngest leaves in the canopy will turn varying shades of yellow
- The entire canopy will turn brown

The canopy will look like it has been freeze-dried in place

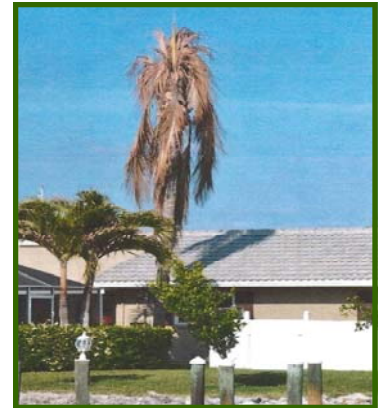
Reference: University of Florida IFAS Extension-**Fusarium Decline of Queen Palms and Mexican Fan Palms in Florida**

Cold Damage of Palm Trees:

Cold damage of many palm trees including Coconut palms, Queen Palms and Christmas palms can still be seen at this time of year. You can still see cold damage that appears 6 to 12 months after the cold spell. The need for patience is needed in having these palms recover from the cold weather we had earlier this year.

Symptoms include:

- Malformed new growth or damage to new growth
- Drooping fronds in the canopy
- Palm may die during the first hot days of summer
- The spear leaf will have its leaflets stuck together with a scorched appearance



There are several other symptoms that can't be seen like bud rot and the ability of the palm not to take up water all can kill the palm.

Maintaining health palms will better prepare them for unexpected cold weather. After the cold weather it is best to protect the bud of the palm by only removing totally brown or dead fronds. Treating the palms with a copper fungicide can help protect the bud right after a freeze. All though treatments with copper fungicide has not been a guarantee that your palms will survive. Patience and routine applications of fertilizer can greatly enhance cold tolerance of palms.

If you would like more information contact Estate today.

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