

SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVIL



WHAT IS THE THREAT:

The South American Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*) is one of a few destructive weevils known especially for attacking Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*). Adult beetles are deep glossy black and can be up to three inches long. Females drill holes into the plant and lay their eggs, which hatch and feed on the palm leaves and crown, creating large channels through the plant material, killing the plant. Populations as low as 30 larvae can kill a tree. SAPW is also a known vector of Red Ring Disease, which can quickly kill a palm on its own.

WHERE IS THE THREAT:

First discovered in 2010 in San Diego, California, the South American Palm Weevil poses a major threat to palms in the southwestern United States.

SYMPTOMS:

Common symptoms include yellowing foliage, flattening of the crown, holes and tunnels with an accumulation of frass at the base of the tree, and pupal cases that look like shredded wheat biscuits.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT:

A trunk injection of IMA-jet® will give both preventative and curative control, providing there has not been extensive feeding damage to the palm. It is also recommended to apply PHOSPHO-jet™ to help control any secondary disease pathogens and PALM-jet Mg™ to provide needed nutrients for overall plant health and vigor.



American Palm Weevil larvae



South American Palm Weevil Damage



Elongated rostrum, having stout setae characteristic of males of this species.

Header Image taken by: Didier Descouens; American Palm Weevil larvae taken by: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org South American Palm Weevil Damage taken by: D. R. Hodel, The University of California Riverside Center; Elongated rostrum taken by: Hanna Royals, Screening Aids, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org