

Landscapers & Nurseries

Purchasing restricted Palms outside of the quarantine area and transporting into the protected area is prohibited by law.

If you are caught, expect the following actions against you—

- ◆ Civil Administrative
- ◆ Criminal
- ◆ Civil Action

Penalties will be imposed on violators.

PROOF OF PURCHASE MANDATORY

Plant materials found in violation of the Quarantine law shall be removed at the owner's expense. Civil fines and Jail time may apply to each violation.

Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner

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04/08

Landscaper's Guide

Working with Palms in the Coachella Valley





Date Palm Disease Interior Quarantine

Adopted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture in 1980, this quarantine was established to protect the California Date industry from *Fusarium oxysporum*, a soil-borne fungus spread with the Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*).

The statewide quarantine prohibits the movement of all plants and parts for propagation of the palm genus *Phoenix*, and all tools used for trimming or pruning of the genus *Phoenix* into a protected area.

Protected Areas

- ◆ Beginning at the Eastern boundary of Cabazon through the Coachella Valley and ending in Blythe, Riverside County
- ◆ All of Imperial County
- ◆ Inyo County—Township 27 north, Range 1 east, which includes the Furnace Creek Ranch of Death Valley



Susceptible Palms Infectious to the Date Palm, *Phoenix dactylifera*

Not Allowable for Transporting and Planting into a Protected Area

Canary Island Date Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*

“This palm is a known carrier of fusarium wilt fungus infectious to the Senegal Date Palm, *P. reclinata* and Date Palm *P. dactylifera*”

Clump Palm (Senegal Date Palm), *Phoenix reclinata*

“Symptoms of the fusarium wilt fungus rarely shows on this species”

Pygmy Date Palm, *Phoenix roebelenii*

“Symptoms of the fusarium wilt fungus rarely shows on this species”

Caring for your Customers Palms

The causal organism *Fusarium oxysporum* is a microscopic fungus belonging to the microflora of the soil. It can be spread by water, wind, diseased offshoots, infected date tissues; especially infected wood or pieces of rachis, and pruning devices.

Once the soil is infected, the fungus will persist there almost indefinitely, thereby rendering it unfit for any susceptible crop production.

Disease enters the root system, causing wilting and eventual death of a *Phoenix* genus palm.

Symptoms of an infected palm include: a rose to violet stain in the center area of the



Infected Canary Date Palm



palm frond; discoloration of leaves on one side of a palm frond and branches.

The disease can be carried on:

- ⇒ Seeds
- ⇒ Plants
- ⇒ Saws
- ⇒ Knives and other tools used for trimming or pruning date palms



These precautionary measures should be taken to prevent the disease from spreading when working on palm trees in the Coachella Valley.

1. Do not use tools brought in from **OUTSIDE THE VALLEY**. If you do, it is required all tools be **STERILIZED** before using on any palms. Sterilization of all tools used in working on palms in the Coachella Valley should be standard practice.
2. Do not use **CHAINSAWS** for cutting fronds as they are impossible to sterilize. Hand saws are better.
3. When trimming the palms, do not overlook any discoloration of leaves, branches, etc.
4. It is your obligation to inform your Supervisor or the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner’s office on any use of unauthorized tools, unusual change or appearance in palm fronds, cut branches, etc.



This palm was diagnosed in 1992. It is still alive and still shows *Fusarium* symptoms. The last stage will be “Rapid Decline”, often a result of shock.