

# Horticultural Aspects

## Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms (LBD)

### Preventative Care for Palms

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Adonidia merrillii</i>	Christmas Palm
<i>Bismarckia nobilis</i>	Bismarck Palm
<i>Butia capitata</i>	Pindo Palm
<i>Carpentaria acuminata</i>	Carpentaria Palm
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Coconut Palm
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Chinese Fan Palm
<b><i>Phoenix canariensis</i></b>	<b>Canary Island Date Palm</b>
<b><i>Phoenix dactylifera</i></b>	<b>Edible Date Palm</b>
<i>Phoenix roebelinii</i>	Pygmy Date Palm
<b><i>Phoenix sylvestris</i></b>	<b>Wild Date Palm</b>
<i>Pritchardia pacifica</i>	Fiji Fan Palm
<i>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	Buccaneer Palm
<i>Sabal Mexicana</i>	Mexican Palmetto
<i>Sabal palmetto</i>	Cabbage Palm
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Queen Palm
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Chinese Windmill Palm

Lethal Bronzing Disease (LBD) has been causing decline and death in palms throughout the States of Florida, Texas and Louisiana since 2006.

In Florida, the disease was first observed in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. More recently, the disease has been observed in **Broward and Palm Beach County**. The known varieties of palms that the disease affects has also grown, now to **16 different kinds of palms**. The following table lists the known palms affected by this disease.

**This list includes many of our most prized and valuable commercially grown palms in South Florida.**

While there is currently no curative measure to help a palm once it has become infected, there are precautionary measures we can take to help save these beautiful and valuable assets of our landscapes. **Specifically, we can inject these palm trees with antibiotics that increase the palm's ability to resist infection and remain healthy.**

**The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) has provided recommendations regarding how we handle palms that have already been infected, and how we can prevent the infection from spreading to healthy palms.**

**The University of Florida IFAS recommends:**

**Quarterly antibiotic applications, for a period of at least two years, for susceptible palms in areas where the disease is present.**

**Once a palm shows symptoms and tests positive for the LBD phytoplasma, the palm should be removed immediately.**

**Healthy palms near infected palms should be tested to verify they are free of infection and injected with oxytetracycline HCl (OTC) every three to four months as a preventative for at least two years.**

**Conclusion:**

In many cases, A relatively small investment per injection (8 total injections each), over the course of two years, can save palms trees worth thousands of dollars and help preserve our beautiful South Florida landscapes.

As we see the disease continue to spread, we can help to slow it by removing infected trees immediately.

If you believe you have infected palms or palms showings symptoms of the infection, please contact our office. Horticultural Aspects can help with testing, removal, and preventative treatments.

**Source(s):**

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdffiles/PP/PP16300.pdf>

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