



6-Week Palm Health Protection Program

A continuous care system designed to help protect your palms from disease, insect pressure, and nutrient stress — built on decades of proven expertise from Houston's oldest palm tree company.
Aligned with current research and recommendations from the University of Florida IFAS.

How It Works

Our team visits your property every 6 weeks to apply fertilizer and perform alternating trunk injections:

- **Oxytetracycline (Terrier®)** – Helps protect against Lethal Bronzing Disease
- **Imidacloprid** – Helps control insect pests like Haplaxius crudus and Asian palm scale
- **Perfect Palm® Fertilizer** – Keeps palms strong, nourished, and naturally resilient

6-Week Rotation Timeline

Week	Treatment	Purpose
0	Granular Fertilizer + Imidacloprid Injection	Pest/vector control
6	Granular Fertilizer + Oxytetracycline Injection	LB Disease suppression
12	Granular Fertilizer + Imidacloprid Injection	Continue pest/vector control
18	Granular Fertilizer + Oxytetracycline Injection	Continue LB suppression
24	Repeat Cycle Every 6 Weeks Throughout Year	Continuous palm protection

Why This Works

- Treatments are staggered to prevent crystallization and help maximize uptake.
- Regular feeding helps palms stay hydrated and helps maintain active vascular flow.
- Balanced nutrients can help to improve recovery and resistance to environmental stress.
- Continuous monitoring allows early detection before symptoms progress.

Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery

Tour Our Farms - Buy Direct From the Growers - Talk With Our Experts
5313 Gulf Freeway, La Marque, TX 77568 — 409-941-PALM (Galveston County)
20113 Southwest Freeway, Sugar Land, TX 77479 — 713-621-PALM (SW Houston)
PalmProfessionalsTropicalNursery.com

This treatment plan is designed for preventative care and does not guarantee that palms will not become infected. There is currently no known cure for palms already infected with Lethal Bronzing or other systemic diseases. These treatments are intended to help suppress disease activity, reduce insect vectors, and strengthen overall palm health to lower the likelihood of problems.

Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms (LBD)

Lethal Bronzing Disease (LBD) is a fatal disease of palm trees caused by a phytoplasma—an invisible, bacteria-like organism that lives inside the tree's sap. It has destroyed thousands of palms and caused millions in property and landscape losses throughout Florida and the Gulf Coast.

What it Does:

Once infected, palms begin to lose color from the lower fronds upward. Fronds turn bronze, fruits may drop early, and eventually the newest central spear leaf collapses—marking the death of the growing bud. Once this happens, the palm cannot recover.

Severity & Impact:

According to the University of Florida (IFAS), once a palm tests positive, it should be removed immediately to prevent spread. There is currently no cure. The disease has caused extensive damage, with estimated losses of several million dollars in nursery and landscape palms.

How It Spreads:

Lethal Bronzing is spread by small sap-feeding insects called planthoppers. They carry the organism from infected palms to healthy ones while feeding. These insects breed in grassy or marshy areas, making coastal and water-adjacent properties more vulnerable.

Current Recommendations:

Because there is no cure, early detection and prevention are critical. University and field research recommend a rotation of preventive trunk injections — applying oxytetracycline (OTC) every three months as a systemic antibiotic, and alternating midway between those treatments with imidacloprid, a systemic insecticide that helps control the insect vectors responsible for spreading the disease. This six-week staggered schedule helps keep consistent protection within the palm's vascular system. Routine health monitoring and rapid removal of infected palms remain essential to reduce further spread to neighboring palms.

References:

University of Florida IFAS Extension – *Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms (PP163)*

UF Gardening Solutions – 'Lethal Bronzing Disease' Article (2024)

This document is provided for educational purposes. There is currently no known cure for infected palms. Treatments may reduce risk or slow progression but cannot guarantee protection.

Why We Use Imidacloprid Injections for Palm Protection

Palm trees are living investments that deserve protection from insects that can damage or destroy them. Among the most effective tools for this protection is **imidacloprid**, a targeted treatment that defends palms from pests like leafhoppers, Asian scale, mealybugs, and other sap-feeding insects that can weaken or kill a tree over time.

What Imidacloprid Does:

Imidacloprid works from the inside out. Once injected into the trunk, the tree absorbs the product through its vascular system—the same way it moves water and nutrients. This helps make the palm resistant to insect feeding for several months at a time.

Why We Inject Instead of Spray Near Waterways:

While imidacloprid can also be sprayed or applied to turf, those methods can risk runoff into nearby ponds, canals, or marsh areas. When pesticides reach water, even in small amounts, they can harm fish, birds, and beneficial aquatic insects. By injecting directly into the palm trunk, we keep the treatment sealed inside the tree where it's needed—no drift, no runoff, and no exposure to surrounding environments.

Benefits of Injection Treatments:

- Long-lasting internal protection for 3 months.
- No chemical drift or overspray into air or water.
- Safer for use around waterways, homes, and sensitive landscapes.
- Precise dosage per palm based on size, ensuring effective control.
- Helps reduce the spread of vector insects that can carry deadly palm diseases like Lethal Bronzing.

For palms located near lakes, marshes, or drainage systems, trunk injection is the responsible and environmentally sound choice. This method delivers excellent protection for the tree without exposing our waterways to unnecessary chemicals.

This educational summary explains why injection methods are preferred near sensitive environments. Imidacloprid should only be applied by trained professionals following all label directions and environmental safety guidelines.

■ ■ Cautionary Statement – Palm Tree Injection Treatments

Purpose of This Notice

Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery provides this notice to educate clients about the risks and limitations associated with any trunk injection performed on palm trees. Palm trees are biologically different from traditional shade or hardwood trees. They lack a true bark and cannot heal trunk wounds. Once the pseudobark or vascular tissue is punctured, the injury is permanent.

Risks of Injection Treatments

- Palm trunks do not heal after drilling or puncturing.
- Punctures have potential of damaging a section of the vascular tissue permanently.
- Repeated injections may cause vascular decline in that area which can limit absorption of treatments and a new injection site may need to be utilized.

Why Injections Are Sometimes Performed

Injections are performed only when no safer alternatives exist. These include lethal bronzing exposure, high-value palms near infected areas, or sites near waterways where sprays cannot be used. Universities such as the University of Florida (IFAS) and global research agencies recognize that, in these cases, injections may prevent greater losses.

Minimization methods include:

- Using the smallest possible bore holes.
- Sealing injection sites with professional portals.
- Limiting treatment frequency to essential intervals.

Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery Position Statement

We do not recommend or encourage drilling or puncturing palm trunks under normal circumstances. However, for lethal bronzing disease or systemic insecticide applications near waterways, trunk injections are currently the only method endorsed by leading universities and research centers.

Client Understanding and Liability Notice

By authorizing injection services, the client acknowledges:

- Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery does not guarantee prevention or cure.
- Injections may cause permanent trunk injury by puncturing the vascular tissues.
- The client assumes all risks; Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery is not liable for any resulting loss.

References

University of Florida IFAS Extension – Lethal Bronzing Disease of Palms (PP163)

UF Environmental Horticulture Dept. – Palm Injection BMPs

Texas A&M; AgriLife Extension – Phytoplasma Diseases in Palms

USDA ARS – Phloem-Limited Pathogens in Tropical Palms

This document is for educational and disclosure purposes only. Palm Professionals Tropical Nursery provides injection services solely when deemed necessary by scientific guidance or environmental regulation. We do not guarantee survival, cure, or immunity of treated palms.