



# SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVIL

## ▶ WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVILS



Adult South American Palm Weevil



Canary Islands Date Palm

### BACKGROUND:

South American palm weevil (SAPW) (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*) inflicts physical damage on palms through boring galleries, causing frond death, weakening palm immune systems to other diseases, and leading to the eventual death of the whole tree.

It was first detected by trapping in San Ysidro in May 2011, and the weevil has heavily infesting the Bonita and Chula Vista areas of South San Diego. It has since spread, found in traps as far North as San Marcos, and is a serious threat to many palm species.

### MONITOR FOR PALM WEEVIL:

The goal of SAPW monitoring is to evaluate the spread of the weevil, learn which geographic areas are at risk, and take prophylactic action to protect palms.

### VISUAL INSPECTION

Visually inspect your tree(s) at regular intervals for signs and symptoms of palm weevil:

- ▶ **Crown Symptoms:** burrowing larva and roaming adults, putrid smell, damaged newly emerging fronds, frass
- ▶ **Frond Symptoms:** holes, notched leaves, yellowing, crown drooping
- ▶ **Trunk Symptoms:** holes near heart, and other physical damage, weevil excrement, pupal cases near base of trunk.

### TRAPPING

The most common trapping method is a home-made 1 to 5 gallon bucket trap or a commercial Picusan trap.

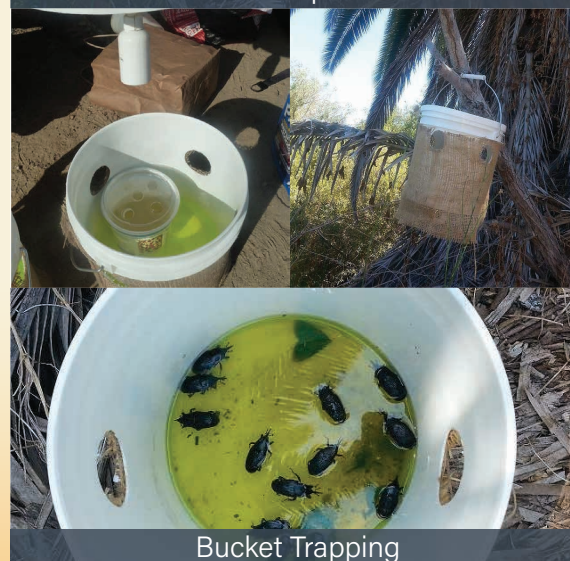
**There are three attractants needed:**

1. An aggregation pheromone
2. Ethyl acetate
3. Food baits: sugarcane, pineapple, apple, chopped dates.

Bucket traps can be placed on the ground or suspended from a pole or tree at least 150 meters away from the palms you wish to monitor. Lures should be replaced every six weeks.



Visual Inspection



Bucket Trapping



## MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF SAPW

- ▶ Fast detection, treatment, and removal is key: report infestations and make plans to treat or remove infested palms.
- ▶ Infestations in damaged or dead palms can be controlled physically (with removal and destruction) or chemically (with pesticides).
- ▶ Remove dead or dying trees that cannot be treated as they will continue to host weevil populations and can infect trees nearby.
- ▶ Palm removal can be expensive, potentially dangerous, and should be undertaken only by professional arborists.
- ▶ Chipping, burning, and burying remnants destroys larvae, pupae, and adults.

### IDENTIFY SOUTH AMERICAN PALM WEEVIL:

Look for these 4 signs to identify South American Palm Weevil in your palms or on public property:

**1** New frond leaf notching

**2** Yellowing leaves, crown decline

**3** Debris/pupal cases under the tree

**4** Fronds flattening top down



### HOW TO REPORT SAPW

Report infestations or symptomatic palm trees on your property or anywhere you find them.

- ▶ Visit [civr.ucr.edu/palmarum\\_survey.html](http://civr.ucr.edu/palmarum_survey.html) and "Click Here to Report Infested Palms"



- ▶ Contact County Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures Insect/Bee Hotline at **1-800-200-2337**



### TIP!

Identify the ratio of males to females by looking for the "comb" on the male rostrum (nose). Mated females pose the most risk to overtake a healthy tree.

MALE

FEMALE



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