

Texas Phoenix Palm Decline

Texas Phoenix palm decline (TPPD) is a new disease in Florida. This disease is caused by a bacterium (a phytoplasma). The TPPD phytoplasma is similar to, but genetically different from the phytoplasma that causes lethal yellowing (LY) disease of palms. Texas Phoenix palm decline is a fatal, systemic disease that kills palms quickly. The TPPD phytoplasma is spread naturally to palms by sap-feeding insects, such as planthoppers. Palms showing symptoms of more than 25 percent foliar browning or a dead spear leaf due to the disease should be removed from the landscape immediately.

Management of TPPD includes protection of susceptible palms in disease-active areas by

1. Trunk injections (with oxytetracycline HCl) every four months administered by a certified arborist
2. Planting palm species that are resistant to this disease.

Palm species most severely affected by TPPD were *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island date palm), *Phoenix dactylifera* (edible date palm), *Phoenix sylvestris* (wild date palm) and *Sabal palmetto* (cabbage palm). For further information go to University of Florida publication: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pp163> .