



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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Commissioner

PEST: Lethal Yellowing of Palms (a phytoplasmal disease)

BASIC PROFILE: LY is a disease that affects certain species of palm trees. It is vectored (transmitted) by one species of leafhopper and can be moved in nursery stock, especially when the leafhopper is present. Symptoms include darkening of inflorescences followed by yellowing of the oldest fronds (palm leaves) on the plant. Younger fronds are affected later. The final result is tree death.

LDAF ACTIVITY: LDAF conducts routine inspections for LY at marketplace locations, nursery grower and NSD locations (looking for LY host palm trees / plants from the state of Florida which are restricted entry into Louisiana; and examining plants for symptoms and checking paperwork to confirm origin). Paperwork checks for proper certification are the main regulatory tool available. When non-certified palms are found, stop sales are issued and material is destroyed or may be returned to origin. LY has been identified in East Baton Rouge and Jefferson parishes and are under an internal quarantine which requires a treatment for leafhoppers prior to shipment.



Leafhopper Vector

