

PEST: Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier)

BASIC PROFILE: RPW is a very serious pest of many ornamental palm tree species, particularly coconut and date palms. It was first found in the U.S. in October 2010 in southern California. Adults are large: ~1"- 1.6" (25 – 40 mm) long and are reddish-orange or reddish-brown in color. Some have dark spots on the pronotum or may have a blackish body with a red pronotum stripe. Female RPW bore into palm tree trunks to lay their eggs. Larvae hatch and tunnel their way toward the tree center, feeding for two months before pupating inside the tree. Larvae may reach 2" (50 mm) in length. Adults also feed on palm trees. A RPW infestation usually kills the tree with limited symptoms.

LDAF ACTIVITY: While RPW adults can fly some distance (4-5 miles in a week), most movement is man-assisted via infested plant material. Federal and/or state restrictions may help prevent movement in infested trees. LDAF may conduct surveys for RPW in the future. Visual inspection is difficult because RPW entry/exit holes are hidden beneath trunk fibers. A pheromone trap is available that can attract both male and female adult RPW. Trap placement would be in high-risk areas (with palms) or based on follow-up shipments of host material entering the state from high-risk areas.



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