

**PEST:** Lethal Bronzing (Disease of *Phoenix* Palms) (a phytoplasmal disease)

**BASIC PROFILE:** LB is a disease that affects species of palm trees in the genus *Phoenix* (date palms). It is vectored (transmitted) by one species of leafhopper and can be moved in nursery stock, especially when the leafhopper is present. Symptoms are nearly identical to lethal yellowing disease 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 LB at marketplace locations, nursery grower and NSD locations (looking for host palm trees / plants from the states of Texas and 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. LB has been found in the following parishes: East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Jefferson, Orleans and West Baton Rouge and all host palms are under an internal quarantine. Palms from quarantined parishes may be sold outside of the parish if they are treated with an insecticide labeled for leafhoppers prior to shipment.

