

December 6, 2007

**MEMBER ALERT:
RED PALM MITE FOUND IN FLORIDA**

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson announced on December 5 th the detection of the red palm mite on a coconut palm in a landscape setting in Palm Beach Gardens . The red palm mite can affect a variety of palms, heliconias, gingers, birds of paradise and other plants.

USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is conducting preliminary delimitation surveys to assess any potential spread of this mite.

Fortunately, there are pesticides that can control the mite – thanks to research already conducted by the University of Florida/IFAS .

FNGLA is working with FDACS' Division of Plant Industry (DPI) and APHIS to finalize and announce as swiftly as possible the chemical control recommendations. FNGLA has made it very clear to APHIS and DPI the shipping and certification requirements must be consistent to avoid any marketplace confusion or disruption. Stay tuned.

To read FDACS' press release on red palm mite, go to:
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/press/2007/12052007_2.html

For USDA-APHIS' pest alert on red palm mite, go to:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/pa_rpm7-2007.pdf

For FDACS' Division of Plant Industry's pest alert and informational handout, go to:
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/red_palm_mite.html