



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON, Commissioner
The Capitol • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0800
www.doacs.state.fl.us

Please Respond to:
Division of Plant Industry
P.O. Box 147100
Gainesville Florida 32614-7100
Telephone: 352-372-3505
Fax: 352-955-2300

July 23, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Florida Shippers of Red Palm Mite Host Plants to Texas

FROM: Richard D. Gaskalla, Director – Division of Plant Industry

SUBJECT: **Texas - Red Palm Mite, *Raoiella indica*** Quarantine

On December 7, 2007, the first confirmed detection of Red Palm Mite (RPM), *Raoiella indica* was detected in the continental United States in Palm Beach County, Florida. Since that time RPM has been detected in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties. The most current information is available on our department's website at:
http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/enpp/ento/red_palm_mite.html

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established a Red Palm Mite (RPM) Quarantine for all host plants (see attached compliance agreement) for the following Florida counties: Broward, Palm Beach, Dade, and Monroe. **This quarantine only involves counties that are found positive for RPM. Texas will begin enforcing this new quarantine on July 25, 2008.**

This quarantine will require treatment and freedom from Red Palm Mite (RPM) for entry, sale, or distribution of host plants in Texas from Florida. Until a compliance agreement is approved for use by the Texas Department of Agriculture, a State Phytosanitary Certificate will have to be issued with an approved miticide treatment witnessed. The following five miticides have been approved by Texas:

- bifenazate (Floramite® SC)
- Spiromesifen (Judo™)
- Acequinocyl (Shuttle™ 15 SC)
- Etoxazole (TetraSan™ 5 WDG)
- Milbemectin (Ultiflora™)



For a complete detail on the new Texas RPM Quarantine, please see the following link:
http://www.agr.state.tx.us/agr/media/media_render/0,1460,1848_17053_23579_0,00.html

The Texas – Red Palm Mite Compliance Agreement (DRAFT attached) is in the process of being approved by our agency and the Texas Department of Agriculture. The guidelines require two months of treatments to be eligible for shipping without a State Phytosanitary Certificate. It is recommended that if you plan to participate in this certification program you should start applying the recommended treatments and maintaining treatment records as stated in the compliance agreement. Those nurseries that opt to follow the requirements of the compliance agreement will be eligible for a stamp indicating your facility is under compliance and "Meets the Texas red palm mite quarantine requirement. FDACS-DPI Compliance Agreement No. ____".

Current regulations in regards to Lethal Yellowing host palms remain in effect and are prohibited from being shipped into Texas from Florida.

This information has been shared with our inspectors throughout the state. Your local inspector should be in touch with you in regards to future exports to Texas. For additional information or questions in regards to shipping RPM host plants to Texas, please contact Tyson Emery, Chief of Plant and Apiary Inspection, at 352-372-3505.