



Fusarium Wilt

of Queen Palm and Mexican Fan Palm: What you Need to Know

Fusarium wilt of queen palm and Mexican fan palm is a devastating disease caused by the *Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *palmarum* fungus. The disease is widespread in Florida. In 2012, this fungus was confirmed on a Mexican fan palm in Harris County, Texas. Since then, a few potential infections have been suspected but not confirmed on both queen palms and Mexican fan palms in Texas.

What is fusarium wilt?

This fungal disease blocks the water-transporting (xylem) tissues, causing the leaves to wilt, turn yellow, and then brown. Eventually the entire leaf dies. The symptoms spread progressively from the lowest to the uppermost leaves in the canopy until the tree dies, often within two to three months. There is no cure.

What do I look for?

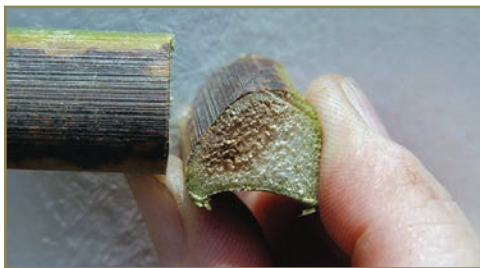
Early stage



Leaflets on one side of the petiole (central leaf stem) are yellow or brown but a healthy green on the opposite side.



A reddish brown or dark brown stripe runs along the petiole and rachis (connects leaflets to the petiole) of the leaf.



Discoloration caused by the infection is evident on a cross section of the leaf.

Photo courtesy of T. K. Broschat, University of Florida.

Middle stage



Leaves in the lowest part of the canopy die.

Late stage



The entire canopy dies.



Because the disease spreads so quickly, the dead leaves do not droop.

To learn more about fusarium wilt, visit tnlonline.org or tnlagreentalk.blogspot.com

Photos courtesy of Monica L. Elliott, University of Florida, unless otherwise noted.