



IAPPS NEWSLETTER

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DIGITAL AIDS TO IDENTIFYING PESTS, DISEASES AND DISORDERS

The continuing decline in taxonomic expertise and the associated reduction in access to expert identifiers has led to the development of numerous identification-themed websites and CD/DVD products, ranging from text based keys to image databases and interactive matrix keys.

The Identification Technology Program (ITP) in the USDA's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) is a major developer of digital identification aids. One of its most recent releases is a web site (<http://itp.lucidcentral.org/id/palms/resource/#palmId>) concerned with the

A Resource for Pests and Diseases of Cultivated Palms

Home About Palms About Resource References Select Tool Terminology Gallery

Palm ID Screening Aid Symptoms Beetles Scales Mites

Identifying Commonly Cultivated Palms

Identify cultivated palms, whether you have the entire plant or just a part of the plant.

more information visit site

Which tool should I use?

The resource offers a variety of tools to help with the identification of arthropod pests, diseases, disorders, and cultivated palms. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Can I just view images and fact sheets?

Find links to image galleries and fact sheets from all currently available tools.

What's new in the resource?

See what updates have recently been added to the palm resource. [READ MORE](#)

ABOUT THIS PALM RESOURCE

The palm resource is a screening aid designed to support individuals involved with commodity-based surveys. It includes identification tools for cultivated palms and their pests, diseases, and disorders known to occur in the continental U.S., Hawaii, and the Caribbean Islands as of 2010, as well as those of immediate concern to these areas. [READ MORE](#)

Palms: an important commodity

Palms are a source of food, oil, rope, fiber, baskets, hats, mats, tannin, thatch, beverages, furniture, and narcotics. Three species of palms are foremost in importance for both local economies and for commerce: *Cocos nucifera* (Coconut Palm), *Elaeis guineensis* (African Oil Palm), and *Phoenix dactylifera* (Date Palm). In addition to the many diverse products...

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identification and diagnosis of palm pests and diseases. Fig. 1 shows a screen shot of the home page of this resource. Fig. 2 demonstrates one of the resource's online keys for field diagnosis of palm diseases and disorders based on a series of symptoms, which can be accessed by clicking on "Symptoms" on the Home page's main menu (Fig. 1).

Figure 1- ITP's online resource for identifying pests and diseases of cultivated palms. "Palm ID" has been selected from the main menu, giving you access to a Lucid key to identification of cultivated palms. By clicking on other menu choices, additional identification keys, as well as images and fact sheets can be viewed.



Figure 2 - An online Lucid key for diagnosing palm diseases and disorders of palms showing the selection of “leaves” as the “Section of palm tree affected”, then “Most severe on youngest (upper) leaves”, “Other leaf symptoms” and “leaflets frizzled” which results in three disorders remaining out of 49 possibilities. Fact sheets for these disorders can be accessed via the key or from a list of all fact sheets via “Fact Sheets” in the main menu.

While identification aids such as the series of palm tools described above, as well as other ID Aids, are available on the Internet, it may not be easy to find them using generic search engines, and some of those found may not be suitable for making a correct identification. To address this problem the ITP team has developed ID Source – a gateway to an identification-themed subset of the web that focuses on plant pest, weed, and disease groups of concern for plant protection and quarantine. This subset contains keys, fact sheets, screening aids, image galleries and other tools specifically designed for or otherwise facilitating identification. Because it has a specialized focus, searching with ID Source leads to more fruitful and helpful results than standard Internet search engines can provide. The ID aids reached via ID Source are only those that ITP and ID Source future users determine meet a certain standard of quality and usability and, importantly, those that

can provide biosecurity support to USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine agency and its international and domestic co-operators.

The screenshot shows the ID Source website interface. At the top, the logo 'idsource beta' is followed by the tagline 'your gateway to pest identification' and a 'Provide Beta Feedback' button. A navigation bar includes links for Home, About, Find ID Aids, Contribute, My ID Source, Contact, and Help. Below this is a search form with three dropdown menus: 'ID AID TITLE' (set to 'PALMS'), 'ORGANISM' (set to 'All'), and 'REGION' (set to 'All'). A 'Search for ID Aids' button is positioned below the form. To the left of the search results is a sidebar titled 'Narrow Your Results' with various filter categories: SCIENTIFIC NAME, CONTENTS, COMMODITY, KEY PROGRAM, and INFORMATION TYPE, each with a dropdown menu. The main search results area displays a list of 9 ID Aids, numbered 1 through 9. Each result includes a title, the source organization, and a list of contents. For example, the first result is 'Diseases and Disorders of Ornamental Palms' from the American Phytopathological Society (APS), United States of America, with contents including 'Screening Aid' and 'Organism: Disease'. Other results include 'Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Guide to Palms', 'Identifying Commonly Cultivated Palms', 'Palm Base', 'Palm Pest and Disease Image Gallery', and 'The Red Palm Weevil (Rhynchophorus ferrugineus) in the Mediterranean Area'.

A specific example of the results obtained from ID source when searching for ID Aids to palm pests and diseases is shown in Fig. 3.

Figure 3 – A search for “palms”, typed into the “ID Aid Title” search field, returns a list of 9 ID aids for palms. Alternative searches can filter ID Aids by scientific name, commodity, type of ID aid, and more.

This version of ID Source, which can be accessed at <http://idsource.colostate.edu>, is a beta release for the purpose of testing by potential

users. Since the success of ID Source depends on participation of the biosecurity and plant protection community, the ITP team welcomes feedback on this beta version. There is a brief online survey on the ID Source site for this purpose, as well as an open ended feedback section for comments, and a “Contribute” page that describes how to suggest ID Aids and become a participant in ID Source. The ability to rate and review ID aids on ID Source is planned for release towards the end of 2011.

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7TH INTERNATIONAL IPM SYMPOSIUM

The 7th International Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Symposium will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, USA on March 27-29, 2012.

You are invited to submit a program proposal related to effective pest management. Symposium sessions will address IPM across disciplines, internationally, in the market place, agricultural, structural community settings, horticultural, and natural environments. The deadline for full

consideration is April 29, 2011. Go to www.ipmcenters.org/impsymposium12 and click on “Program” to learn more.

Join us to celebrate and realize the theme, “IPM on the World Stage: Solutions for Global Pest Challenges.”

Stay informed by following @IPMSymposium on Twitter.

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IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.

It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world’s crop and forest ecosystems.

Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site www.plantprotection.org.

The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:

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