



## Guidelines for pruning and spraying of palm trees, 2021

The following guidelines are being recommended by the Plant Protection Directorate to be used for the prevention and control of the Red Palm Weevil (*Rynchophorus ferrugineus* Olivier) on palm trees by nurseries, garden centres, Government entities, non-Governmental organisations, private entities and anyone who owns or takes care of palm trees.

### 1. Pruning

- Pruning of palm trees should be carried out close to winter or cooler months, when the adult weevil is less active and is less likely to infect the trees.
- The fronds should be cut as short as possible so as to minimize infective areas which are generally concentrated at the base of the fronds. The base of the frond should be sealed with an appropriate pruning sealant or copper sulphate mixed as a paste.
- The palm trees from which the fronds are cut shall be sprayed with an appropriate insecticide immediately following pruning. Treatments are intended to eliminate adult weevils both at the laying stage and if eggs are already present, in order to eliminate emerging weevils.

### 2. Application of chemical treatment

The following actions are suggested when interventions on palm trees such as pruning or dendrosurgery have been carried out. Healthy, non-infected palm trees with a 50 m radius from infected or felled palm trees should also be chemically treated.

- Treatment should be applied every two months with the suggested active ingredients as found in these guidelines.

- Insecticide should be mixed well and applied as a drench of 10 to 20 litres of solution at the crown of the palm tree. It is advisable to also add a systemic fungicide to the solution to prevent fungal infection from entering the tree following pruning.
- Between the application of one treatment and another, it is important to alternate between different active ingredients in order to prevent the red palm weevil from building up resistance against one particular insecticide. This is caused by successive treatments using same active ingredients. It is recommended that the appropriate advice is sought in this regard.
- It is important to follow the insecticide product label so as to ensure that it is adequate for the purpose for which it is to be used and that the correct dosage is applied. Palm owners shall keep a record of the treatments carried out on palms, in terms of schedule I to these guidelines.

The active ingredients which are currently being suggested for the protection and control of palm trees against the red palm weevil are:

- Abamectin
- Acetamiprid
- Deltamethrin
- Cypermethrin

Special attention needs to be given when using a product with these active ingredients. This is so as to assure that the chosen product is against the red palm weevil.

From time to time, the Monitoring and Control Unit in the Plant Protection Directorate will be collecting the mentioned records.

Palm owners shall consult the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) website for an updated list of active ingredients of insecticides and fungicides which are officially permitted to be used in Malta.

## Schedule I

### Insecticide treatment records for palms

Date of treatment	Location	Palm species treated	Number of palms treated	Product name or active ingredient	Amount of product applied (g/ml)	Treatment used (showering / drenching / other type)	Name and signature of operator

**Responsible Entity:**

**Name:**

**Name:**

**Signature:**

**Signature:**