



Weed Management in Palm Production¹

Jeffrey G. Norcini, Timothy K. Broschat, Charles W. Meister, and Alan W. Meerow²

Palms are important landscape ornamentals in Florida and because of their popularity, especially of larger specimen-sized palms, are becoming more widespread. Crop yields can be maximized only under optimal growing conditions, which includes little to no weed competition. Weeds use valuable water and nutrients that could otherwise be utilized by the palms. Weed management costs can be quite high if hand labor is employed. However, use of pre- and postemergent herbicides can significantly improve production efficiency.

Palm species specifically labeled as tolerant to pre- and postemergent herbicides are listed in Table 1. Some herbicides, such as *Ornamental Weedgrass Control*, may include a statement on the label which allows a grower to use the herbicide on an ornamental species not listed on the label, provided that the grower makes a trial application of the product at the recommended rate to a small number of plants in order to determine if the product causes injury to the tested species. For palms, growers should check for injury for at least 10 months after application, since it may take this long for injury symptoms to develop.

The only postemergent herbicides specifically labeled for use in palm nurseries are Fusilade II, Ornamec 170, and Vantage. All three of these will kill many annual and some perennial grasses; they are ineffective on broadleaf weeds and sedges. Check the labels of these grass

herbicides to determine whether they must be applied as a directed spray.

Diquat, Reward, and Scythe are contact herbicides which only kill the above-ground portion of the weed. Contact herbicides are most effective on annuals.

Finale and Roundup are translocated throughout the plant. They will kill annual and perennial broadleaf weeds, grasses, and sedges. Although both of these products are quite safe for use as directed sprays around palms, some *Phoenix* species have been known to be injured by Roundup applications contacting their root system. Should injury occur, palms will usually grow out of any symptoms within a couple of months.

Additional information about these herbicides can be found in ENH-95 *Postemergent Herbicides for Use in Ornamentals*.

References

1. Donselman, H. and T. K. Broschat. 1986. Phytotoxicity of Several Pre- and Postemergent Herbicides on Container Grown Palms. Proc. Fla. State Hort. Soc. 99:273-274.

1. This document is ENH-98, one of a series of the Department of Agronomy, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Revised March 1999. Please visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

2. Jeffrey G. Norcini, Extension Specialist, NFREC Monticello, University of Florida; Timothy K. Broschat and Alan W. Meerow, Extension Specialists, Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center; and Charles W. Meister, Scientist, Pesticide Research Lab, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611.

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Table 1. Pre- and postemergent herbicides specifically labeled for use in or around palms growing in nurseries. An **X** indicates that the product is registered for use in that site.

Latin name	Common name	Product(s)	Nursery sites	
			Container	Field
<i>Arenga pinnata</i>	Sugar palm	Ronstar G	X	X
<i>Butia capitata</i>	Pindo palm; Jelly Palm	Ornamental Weedgrass Control	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
<i>Caryota mitis</i>	Fishtail palm	PrePair	X	X
		Ronstar G	X	X
<i>Chamaedorea cataractarum</i>	Cat palm	Gallery		X
		OH-2	X	X
		Regal 0-0	X	X
		Snapshot TG		X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G XL	X	X X
<i>Chamaedorea elegans</i>	Parlor palm	Gallery		X
		OH-2	X	X
		PrePair	X	X
		Regal 0-0	X	X
		Ronstar G	X	X
		Snapshot TG	X	X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G XL	X	X X
<i>Chamaedorea seifrizii</i>	Bamboo palm	OH-2	X	X
		PrePair	X	X
		Regal 0-0	X	X
<i>Chamaerops humilis</i>	European fan palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Ornamental Weedgrass Control	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
		Vantage	X	X
<i>Dypsis lutescens</i>	Areca palm; Butterfly palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Gallery		X
		Ornamec 170	X	X
		Snapshot TG		X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G XL	X	X X
<i>Cycas revoluta</i> ¹	Sago palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Gallery	X	X
		Snapshot TG	X	X
		Treflan	X	X
		Vantage	X	X
<i>Cyrtostachys renda</i>	Sealing wax palm	PrePair	X	X
		Ronstar G	X	X

Table 1. Pre- and postemergent herbicides specifically labeled for use in or around palms growing in nurseries. An **X** indicates that the product is registered for use in that site.

Latin name	Common name	Product(s)	Nursery sites	
			Container	Field
<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	Chinese fan palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Gallery		X
		Ornamec 170	X	X
		Snapshot TG		X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G XL	X	X X
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Island date palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Ornamec 170	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm	Pendulum	X	X
<i>Phoenix reclinata</i>	Senegal date palm; Reclinata palm	Pendulum	X	X
<i>Phoenix roebelenii</i>	Pygmy date palm	Fusilade II	X	X
		Gallery	X	X
		Ornamec 170	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
		Snapshot TG	X	X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G	X	X
		Vantage	X	X
<i>Phoenix rupicola</i>	Cliff date palm	Pendulum	X	X
<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	Wild date palm	Pendulum	X	X
<i>Ptychosperma macarthurii</i>	Macarthur palm	PrePair	X	X
		Ronstar G	X	X
<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	Lady palm	Ronstar G	X	X
<i>Syagrus romanzoffiana</i>	Queen palm	Vantage	X	X
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Windmill palm	Ornamental Weedgrass Control	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
		Vantage	X	X
<i>Veitchia merrilli</i>	Manila palm; Christmas palm	Gallery		X
		PrePair	X	X
		Ronstar G	X	X
		Snapshot TG		X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G	X	X
<i>Washingtonia filifera</i>	Desert fan palm	Ornamental Weedgrass Control	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X

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Latin name	Common name	Product(s)	Nursery sites	
			Container	Field
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washington Palm	Devrinol	X	X
		Fusilade II	X	X
		Gallery		X
		Ornamental Weedgrass Control	X	X
		Pendulum	X	X
		Surflan		X
		Treflan G	X	X
		XL		X
¹ Not a true palm.				