

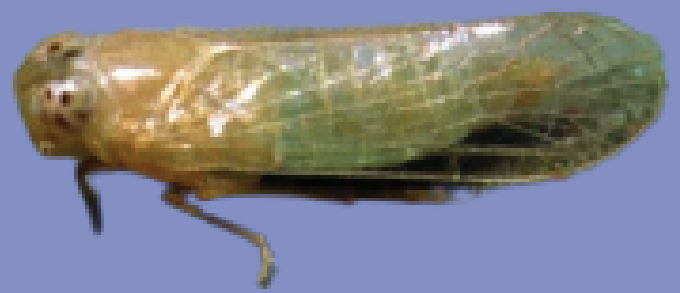


CARIBBEAN PLANT HEALTH DIRECTORS

PROTECTING CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURE

Lethal Yellowing of Coconut

Lethal yellowing is a devastating disease that affects palms including coconuts. It is caused by a phytoplasma, specialized bacteria that are transmitted between plants by insect vectors.



Infected vegetative plant material, including ornamental species, could carry the pathogen in international trade. The vector is less likely to be carried by palms, as palms are infested only by the actively mobile adults.

Most of the fallen nuts will have a brown or black water-soaked area immediately under the calyx.

Premature dropping of mature and immature coconuts (fruits on other varieties) in a process called 'shelling'.

Most male flowers will be dead on the blackened inflorescences and no fruits will set.



Flower stalks (in inflorescences) begin to blacken.

The entire crown falls from the tree leaving a forlorn 'telephone pole' stalk.

For more information on this plant disease!

<https://www.cphdforum.org/>