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## United Arab Emirates

## Horticultural Products

## Ban on Importing Palm Trees from the United States

**2009**

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Environment and Water in the UAE has issued a Ministerial Decree banning imports of palm trees from countries affected by palm tree diseases such as Red Palm Weevil infection, Fusarium Wilt (Bayoud), and Lethal Yellowing. The United States is listed among the countries with Lethal Yellowing disease. The decree is effective from the date of issue, 29 July 2008.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Dubai [TC1]  
[TC]

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on a  *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Arabic, the latter shall prevail.

**ATO Dubai Summary:**

Based on the threat caused by the Red Palm Weevil to the palm trees, and other diseases such as Fusarium Wilt (Bayoud) and Lethal Yellowing disease, the UAE Ministry of Environment and Water issued a Decree banning imports of palm trees from countries where cases of these diseases are recorded. The United States is listed among the countries with Lethal Yellowing Disease. The decree is effective from its date of issue, 29 July 2008.

**ATO Dubai Analysis:**

Local officials indicate that they are particularly concerned about palm trees from the State of Florida because of recorded concerns about the presence of Lethal Yellowing Disease. Plant quarantine official expressed a willingness to consider U.S. exports on a case by case basis if exporters can provide official evidence certifying that the trees in question are resistant to the Lethal Yellowing disease. The full text of the decree is included at the end of this report.

**Comment:**

Companies interested in exporting palm trees to the UAE should work closely with their importer and ATO Dubai before exporting.

**For More Information:**

Should you require more information on the above, Please don't hesitate to contact us on the following:

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**Via the Internet:**

Visit <http://www.fas.usda.gov/> for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting and ATO Dubai reporting.

## **Begin Unofficial Text of Decree Translation**

### **Ministerial Decree No. (510) for 2008** **Regarding Regulating Palms Imports**

Minister of Environment and Water:

Having reviewed the following:

- Federal Law number (1) for 1972 with regards to the specialization of the ministries and the authorities of the ministers and the laws adjusting it;
- Federal Law number (5) for 1979 regarding the agricultural quarantine and the laws adjusting it;
- Federal law number (38) for 1992 regarding establishing nurseries and regulating the production, import and trading in seedlings;

- Federal Decree (1) for 2006 regarding modifying a few statutes of Federal Law (1) for 1972 regarding the specialization of the ministries and their roles;
- The Cabinet of Ministers decision number (170/28) for 2003 with regards to the law (structure) of the agricultural quarantine pertaining to the Cooperative Council of the GCC;
- The Council of Ministers' Decree number (5) for 2006 regarding delegating to the Minister of Environment and Water some ministerial tasks;
- Ministerial Council for Services decision number (84/216) regarding charging the Minister of Water and Environment with the task of giving a complete view of regulating the import of palm trees and seedlings;
- Decree (26) for 2008 for the Council of Ministers regarding importing date palms
- Ministerial decree number (248) for 2003 with regards to the Executive Rule of the law (structure) of the agricultural quarantine of the Cooperative Council for the GCC;

and on the basis of what the Red Palm Weevil and the other diseases the most important of which are the Fusarium Wilt and the Lethal Yellowing diseases constitute as danger to the palm trees in the country;

and based on the requirements of the national interest;

**the following has been decreed:**

#### **Clause One**

Import of the palm plants or parts of the palm or semi palm species from any country in which the Fusarium Wilt or Lethal Yellowing diseases or Red Palm Weevil infections are reported is prohibited; imports of palm plants that are proven scientifically to be carrier or natural host to these diseases are also prohibited.

#### **Clause Two**

The following are exempted from submitting to the laws of Clause One:

1. Palm tissue seedlings the stem of which does not exceed (5) centimeters in average;
2. All seedlings and palm plants meant for scientific or research offices for scientific research reasons.

Importing these seedlings and plants should be done in accordance with the rules, regulations, and decrees followed in this regard.

#### **Clause Three**

Prevention Authority and Agricultural Quarantine at the Ministry should carry out the following:

1. Provide the centers of agricultural quarantine with a list of countries in which infections with pests and diseases mentioned above have been reported; it should be updated regularly;
2. Following up on the execution of the clauses and laws of this decree at all the centers of agricultural quarantine present at the boarder points of the country;

#### **Clause Four**

All concerned authorities should execute this decree each in their concerned areas since the date of issuance of this decree. All previous decrees that oppose or conflict with it are cancelled and it should be published in the Official Gazette.

Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahd  
Minister of Environment and Water

Issued on: 29 July 2008

## Names of Countries that are infected with the Red Palm Weevil and Fusarium Wilt and Lethal Yellowing diseases

### Appendix (1)

#### **1. Countries that are infected with the Red Palm Weevil**

Spain, Australia, Indonesia, Bahrain, Iran, China, Philippines, India, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Taiwan, Egypt, Oman, Sri Lanka, Palestinian Authority, Vietnam, Qatar, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Cyprus, Jordan, Turkey, Syria, Yemen, and Italy.

#### **2. Countries that are infected with the Fusarium Wilt disease:**

Morocco, Algeria, and Mauritania

#### **3. Countries that are infected with the Lethal Yellowing disease:**

Jamaica, Canary Islands, United States of America, Seyaman Islands, Belize, Bahamas, Cuba, Trinidad, Tobago, Dominican, Haiti, Honduras, Guiana, Sudan, Malaysia, Benin, Cameron, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Tanzania