

*Gulf*

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# SOSPALM: THE MOST EFFICIENT SYSTEM FOR THE CONTROL OF RED PALM WEEVIL

THE MIGUEL HERNANDEZ UNIVERSITY OF ELCHE, ALICANTE- SPAIN, PRESENTS THE RESULTS OF THREE YEARS TRIALS ABOUT ENDOTHERAPY WITH THE SOSPALM SYSTEM FOR THE CONTROL OF RED PALM WEEVIL

The SOSPALM peg is an endotherapy method for the control of the red palm weevil. Its high efficiency and low maintenance costs have made SOSPALM the most used tool by professionals, local authorities, date producers, and nurseries.

The SOSPALM peg is permanently installed on the palm stem and after the simple application of an injection, a dose of systemic insecticide travels to the point of growth, protecting it from the attacks of the red palm weevil. As it is installed in the lower part of the palm, it protects the entire stretch of the stem, which is essential to control lateral and basal attacks in *Phoenix dactylifera*.

## Technical Conference

The director of the Palmeral of Elche Department of Miguel Hernandez University of Elche and head of Plant Growth at the Agricultural Council of Alicante, Doctor of Agricultural Engineering Mr. Jose Manuel Llorens, has recently presented the results of endotherapy SOSPALM trials for the control of the



red weevil in palm trees.

After two days of active presentation, in which around 250 experts took part, the following conclusions were given:

- The SOSPALM peg is an efficient method for injecting insecticides into the interior of the palm tree.
- As the same point of injection is used, it is not necessary to repeat the perforations in the palm tree.

## Results of the trials to measure the efficiency of different insecticides

- Monthly injections of 9 cc of Imidacloprid per palm dissolved in SOSPALM LIQUID kept the palm trees alive for more than 2 years.
- After monthly injections of 6 gr of Tiametoxan per palm via the SOSPALM peg, all palms had survived after a two year period.
- 100% of *Phoenix Canariensis* and *Dactylifera* injected every 30 days with Tiametoxan, Imidacloprid, Abamectine and Acetamiprid remained healthy.
- Imidacloprid and Clotianidina had a positive effect in an upward circulation but little effect in downward circulation.

## Results of trials to measure the efficiency of Emamectine

- In seriously infected palms, 45 cc of Emamectine injected every 90 and 120 days through 3 SOSPALM pegs per palm kept all the palms alive.



- In healthy palms, doses of Emamectine of both 30 and 45 cc applied every 180 or 360 days have, to date, shown 100% efficiency, although new trials are needed in order to confirm these results.

#### Other notable trials

The high pest pressure in the date producing areas, along with a very large number of tall palm trees, led to focus the efforts on creating a protocol that guarantees no pesticide residues in the date, a prime quality factor, and the protection of the point of growth in the highest palm trees. Until these results had been achieved, farmers had interrupted the treatments which left the palms unprotected.

#### Trials to detect insecticide residues in dates

- Metjoul and confitera dates which had been injected with Tiametoxan, Abamectine and Imidacloprid using the SOSPALM endotherapy up to 30 days before harvest, did not show any



insecticides residues above required levels.

#### Results of trials to detect the presence of insecticides in the stem of tall palm trees

- In palm trees of up to 13 meters in height, with monthly injections of Imidacloprid, the presence of this insecticide was detected at the growing point.



**Inspection of the condition of the point of installation of the SOSPALM peg after 4 years of use. (Photos courtesy of Alicante Town Hall)**

- In palm trees installed with SOSPALM pegs in March 2010 and inspected in April 2014, no necrosis was detected and the stem retained its capacity of circulation of the injected insecticide.





The full results of the trials can be seen through the following link: <http://palmeralelx.umh.es/trabajos-catedra-2/lucha-activa-contra-el-picudo-iii-tratamientos-con-endoterapia/>

#### **SOSPALM, SYSTEM TESTED IN ELCHE, THE GREATEST PALMERAL IN EUROPE**

The pest situation in Spain is similar to that of all the Mediterranean countries, but having been the gateway of the red palm weevil into Europe, research has been a priority in Spain, making it the country of reference for research in the fight against the red palm weevil.

SOSPALM is a method that offers added advantages over traditional endotherapy. Fixed installation of the peg in the palm tree without the need to repeat perforations avoids unnecessary damage to the specimen.

SOSPALM improves labor productivity when repeated treatments are carried out as it is not necessary to move complicated and heavy equipment.

The SOSPALM peg has been specially designed for permanent installation into the stem of the palm. What is more the external



**The SOSPALM peg has been specially designed for permanent installation into the stem of the palm. What is more the external and internal seal, an exclusive feature of the design, avoids the closure of the capillary vessels of the palm tree and helps functionality over the passage of time.**





and internal seal, an exclusive feature of the design, avoids the closure of the capillary vessels of the palm tree and helps functionality over the passage of time.

As has been proved in all the official trials carried out by the Department of Agriculture of Valencia in Alicante, the Department of Agriculture of Catalonia and by the Department of Agriculture of Ibiza, and other official organisms, garden businesses, gardeners, nurseries and producers of dates, the SOSPALM system is the most efficient and economical as well as being the kindest to the environment in the fight against the red palm weevil.

[www.sospalm.com](http://www.sospalm.com)

**SOSPALM improves labor productivity when repeated treatments are carried out as it is not necessary to move complicated and heavy equipment.**