



### Ganoderma Butt Rot

**Brief:** *Ganoderma zonatum* is a lethal disease of palms both in the landscape and in its natural habitats. While the disease is prevalent in southern Florida, it can be found in other parts of the state and into Georgia and South Carolina

#### Attacks:

- All varieties of palms are susceptible to *Ganoderma*
- *Ganoderma applanatum* and *Ganoderma lucidum* are of the same family but not the same pathogen and attack broadleaf trees.
- Disease causes internal decay of the trunk, but the trunk appears hard despite the disease.

#### Season:

- All year long

#### Causal Agents/Factors

- Researchers are not sure how the palm becomes infected but there is agreed consensus that it enters at point of an injury to the trunk.
- In general, trunk injury appears to be the primary point of entry for the spores.

#### Symptoms

- Wilting, mild or severe, of the entire canopy except the spear.
- Progressive leaf necrosis from the bottom of the crown towards the top
- Fruiting body (conk) confirms the presence of the disease. Conk drops millions of spores that can infect other palms
- *Ganoderma* is soil born but not a root disease

#### Management

- Remove conks as soon as they appear
- Remove trees and leaves and discard as soon as possible.
- Do not compost or use any foliage associated with the tree.
- Do not plant any other palm, of any species, in that area.

#### Control

- There is currently no control for *Ganoderma*. If your palm is infected with *Ganoderma* it will die.

