



Guam Department of Agriculture



Council of Pacific Arts and Culture

Biosecurity Informational Sheet

September 2015

The following list represents and provides general information on three introduced biological organisms affecting the island of Guam.

- 1.) Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) is present in Guam and is a very destructive pest of coconut palms. Adult beetles bore into trunks and palm hearts. Beetle larvae can be found in decaying compost and timber.
- 2.) Little Fire Ants (LFA), are very minute in size and are not easily seen by the unaided eye. The species is known to defoliate plants, blind pets, prey on insects, and cause allergic reactions in humans. LFA's are easily transported by debris, soil and construction backfill from an infected site.
- 3.) The Brown Tree Snake (BTS) is nocturnal and feeds mainly on small animals such as rodents, chicks, and small reptiles, and is blamed for bird population decline in Guam. The BTS is non-poisonous, however, a few cases of allergic reaction to the bites are seldom reported.

All three organisms are considered introduced and invasive. The following sites are common areas for each:

- 1.) CRB - Damage to coconut trees can be easily seen around the island. In certain areas, trees are treated and maintained as prevention re-introduction. In most cases, trees are removed and destroyed mechanically.
- 2.) LFA – Established colonies are found at various sites on island. The sites are in remote areas in Guam. Satellite sites identified for the Festival participants are LFA free. In advance of FestPac, all areas will be tested and treated.
- 3.) BTS – The brown tree snake is most active at night and is easily disturbed by human activity and is most common where food source such as birds and little mammals are found mostly along tree line fringes, jungles and farming areas.

Departing visitors must inspect their belongings for possible “hitch hikers” and immediately report to local officials of any findings. All event sites will be inspected, treated, and monitored to ensure the absence of CRB, LFA and BTS.

Visitors are highly discouraged from handling CRB, LFA, or BTS.

Marine Preserves are designated coastal areas where the harvesting of coral and marine organisms are strictly prohibited. Such areas are marked and enforced by Wildlife Conservation Officers from the Department of Agriculture. Penalties and fines are assessed for any violations.

Should there be any questions, please feel free to contact the Guam Department of Agriculture at (671) 300-7973/735-3955.