



# COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE (CRB)

January 2025, O'ahu

The coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is a federally listed invasive species that feeds on coconuts and other palms. Please follow this guidance to prevent this highly invasive pest from multiplying or establishing in new areas.

## CRB INFORMATION

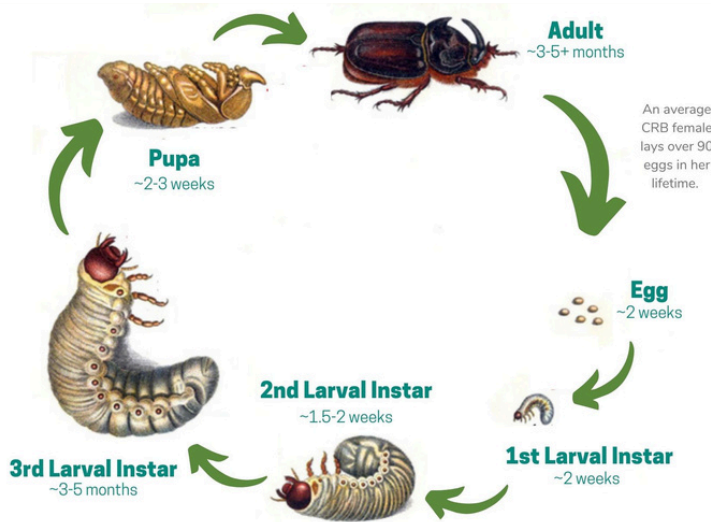
CRB adults are large black beetles (about 2 inches in length), solid black, with a horn. Adults burrow into the spear or heart of the palm to feed on the juices, and **can kill palms**. The damage emerges from the tree as bore holes or v-shaped cuts. If palms are unavailable, CRB can feed on hala, sugarcane, pineapple, and banana.



2 inches



3rd instar CRB larva up to 4 inches



CRB start their lives as larvae (grubs). **They breed in any decomposing plant material (not just palms) like compost, garden soil, mulch, rotting stumps, or green waste.** Larvae can be anywhere from a few millimeters to 3.5-4 inches in length and spend nearly 4-6 months in this breeding material.

### Tree damage:

Look for boreholes in the crowns of trees or fronds with 45 degree, v-shaped cuts. Leaflets will have scalloped edges.



Damage to fan palms: scalloped edges

## FOUND CRB?



Collect all CRB in a glass or hard plastic container and freeze overnight to ensure it is dead. Dead beetles may be thrown away. If you suspect you have tree damage from CRB, follow treatment recommendations at [crbhawaii.org/treatments](http://crbhawaii.org/treatments)



# COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE

FAQs

January 2025, O'ahu

## How do the traps work? Can I get a trap?

Traps have a pheromone lure (a chemical substance that triggers a social response in the same species) that attracts CRB. The adult beetle flies into the side panel and drops into the cup. CRB are unable to escape this trap because the cup is too slippery to climb and CRB wings are too wide to fly out. Traps are deployed across O'ahu in strategic locations to monitor the CRB population. Traps do not catch enough of the beetles to be used as a control method. We need additional traps on islands besides Oahu but coverage on Oahu is sufficient.

## What should I do with a tree if it's damaged? Cut it down?

Take a photo and send it to us for identification confirmation. Host trees can recover from CRB feeding unless the growing tip is heavily damaged or if the tree has secondary damage like a disease. Beetles can move from one tree to another so cutting down a tree will not kill the beetles. Look for possible breeding sites nearby (mulch, compost, green waste piles) and consult our recommendations for treatment or prevention of breeding activity.

## What does the CRB response program do?

Our program is primarily funded to manage populations near ports on Oahu and around high risk commodities being shipped to other islands. We are also funded to respond to new populations outside Oahu. Crews assess trees for damage, search for breeding sites, and apply treatments in our priority zones. Our two canines, Bravo and Penny, are trained to sniff out CRB. Along with their handlers, their work helps us to identify new breeding sites. Our outreach team provides information to the public and professionals while supporting our community response efforts across the state. Our data team analyzes information from traps, mulch surveys, and tree damage. They are responsible for data collection, reporting and more.

## Is any research being done on how to control CRB?

At The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, our research partners investigate new control methods and how to further improve our current practices. They coordinate with researchers across the country and internationally.

## What can I do to reduce my risk of CRB?

1. Don't transport CRB host material such as mulch, compost, green waste. Inspect for holes when you buy bags of garden soil.
2. Manage green waste - reduce any potential breeding material on your property and regularly search through.
3. Finding CRB - Ensure all specimens are dead and dispose. Know what CRB damage looks like, and keep an eye out.
4. Treat infestation - treatment of palms includes chemical and physical treatments. Treatment of breeding material includes heat and chipping.

**Contact: CRB Response**

[crbhawaii.org](http://crbhawaii.org) | [info@crbhawaii.org](mailto:info@crbhawaii.org)