

Vigipalm® (Net) Installation and Maintenance Guide

1. Installation Timing and Preparation

Vigipalm® must be installed before the flight period of the pest you are aiming to protect your palm from. The palm moth is active during the hottest hours of the day, starting from 22–24 °C, with peak activity around 27–30 °C. The red palm weevil flies during daylight hours when temperatures range between 18 °C and 40 °C.

It is recommended to prune the palm prior to installing the net, including:

- ✓ Removal of lower fronds.
- ✓ Reduction of the crown to limit its spread to a vertical arc of 90° to 120°.
- ✓ Cutting petioles flush with the trunk (stipe), depending on the palm species.
- ✓ Trimming accessible spines to prevent snagging of the net or injury during handling.
- ✓ Applying a wound sealant to all pruning cuts and exposed green parts, using pine tar (paste or spray) to mask kairomone signals.

If you aim to protect against the red palm weevil, ensure that the stipe—especially in tall, solitary palms—is free of wounds. This pest has a more varied mode of attack than the moth, and galleries created by moth larvae may facilitate red palm weevil infestation.

In Mediterranean and warm temperate climates, Vigipalm® should preferably be installed in early spring, which coincides with palm pruning season. This optimizes the use of height-access equipment for both operations, particularly for tall specimens.

2. Installing the Net

- ✓ Fully open Vigipalm® by unzipping the closure and loosening the elastic fastening strap.
- ✓ Position the top pentagon of the net above the crown and gradually wrap it around the palm without applying excessive pressure.
- ✓ For small or medium-sized palms with spines or thorns on the petioles:
 - ✓ Tie and tighten the fronds before pulling the net over the crown.
 - ✓ Once the entire crown is enclosed, remove the ties.

3. Securing the Net

- ✓ Ensure the net is properly centered on the palm before fully closing the zipper.
- ✓ Make sure the net is correctly installed and covers the sensitive areas of the palm—the crown and the upper section of the stipe.
- ✓ Tighten the fastening strap, wrapping it several times in a criss-cross manner around the stipe if needed.
- ✓ Securely fasten the tightening clips together, ensuring the elastic strap passes over the grommets.
- ✓ Vigipalm® should not be pressed tightly against the stipe, nor should it leave open gaps that could compromise its effectiveness.
- ✓ When installing in spring, leave enough slack to accommodate summer growth.

4. Monitoring and Safety

- ✓ Regular inspection: Check the condition and correct positioning of Vigipalm® throughout its use.
- ✓ Infestation detection: If installed on a palm that is already infested, monitor for trapped moths or weevils inside the net and inform the relevant authorities.
- ✓ Operator safety: Installation must be carried out by personnel equipped with appropriate protective gear (gloves, goggles, reinforced clothing), and all safety instructions for working at height must be followed.

5. Additional Recommendations

- ✓ Choosing the right size: If in doubt between two Vigipalm® sizes, choose the larger one.
- ✓ Precautions during maintenance around the palm: If the net is installed near the ground, avoid using motorized tools (lawn mowers, edge trimmers, brush cutters) nearby to prevent damage.
- ✓ For nets installed on clumped palms close to the ground, regularly monitor for rodent activity.

6. Net Removal

- ✓ The net must only be removed once the pest's flight period has ended.
- ✓ Undo the tightening clips while firmly holding both ends of the strap. Gradually release the elastic tension to avoid sudden snapping that

could endanger the operator or nearby individuals. Wear gloves and protective goggles to reduce the risk of injury.

- ✓ Fully unzip the closure to open the net. Dégager le filet sans forcer.
- ✓ The net is reusable and repairable (contact us for more information).
- ✓ Once removed, carefully fold Vigipalm® and store it in its original bag, away from pets and rodents.