

Smith River: Inspector Finds Pest in Fake Tree

PQI Danny Cotton can sense bugs EVERYWHERE, including in an artificial Hawaiian curly Ficus Silk Tree he recently purchased online through flowermall.com.

Shortly after the artificial tree arrived to Cotton's home on September 23, 2010, both he and his wife started to hear suspicious popping sounds coming from the tree and noticed sawdust began to collect near the base of the tree.

Cotton decided to take the tree to work to see if there was presence of a pest inside the natural vines of the tree. A larval specimen was submitted and identified as a Q-rated Bostrichid beetle. These beetles are well-known pests of wood and wood products. A heavy infestation often reduces wood to just powder dust.

So, the next time you think you see or hear a pest lurking

around, maybe it's just your inspector senses kicking in!



The tree trunk is comprised of natural vines.