

**Panama  
disease  
tropical  
race 4**

**Mixed Farming**

# Managing the risks

If a grower has Panama TR4 on their farm and they want to use a section of land to farm other crops or manage livestock, steps have to be taken to minimise the risk of disease spread to protect their farm and the broader industry.

## Mixed farming on Panama TR4 affected land

Panama disease tropical race 4 (Panama TR4) is a serious disease of banana plants. It is caused by a fungus that lives in the soil. It is spread by the movement of infected banana plant material and contaminated soil or water.

The fungus can survive in the soil for decades without detection. This means it can be unknowingly moved on, around or between farms prior to banana plants showing signs of the disease.

To assess the risk of mixed farming on affected land, the Panama TR4 Program (Program):

- makes a risk assessment to establish the level of risk of that land being contaminated with Panama TR4
- establishes processes that the grower must do to manage the risk.

See over for more...

For more information visit [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](https://biosecurity.qld.gov.au) or call **13 25 23**

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# Risk assessment

## Step 1

### Investigate

The Program gathers information about the land through on-site visits, questionnaires and interviews with the affected grower.

## Step 2

### Assess

The Program assesses this information to work out whether the land could have been contaminated with Panama TR4. Key considerations include whether:

- bananas have been grown on this land
- the movement of carriers could have caused contamination i.e. people, machinery or other things moving between the banana growing land and the land that may have been compromised
- sufficient separation has occurred between the land and banana growing land
- the land can be divided into being acceptable or unacceptable risk of contamination.

### Determine risk

From the assessment, the land will be given a classification of either 'clean' or 'dirty' land.

## Step 3

#### Clean land

**If the risk of Panama TR4 contamination is negligible, the land will be designated as clean and become part of the farm's clean zones.**

The affected grower will need to make sure that separation measures such as fencing, signage, drainage and movement restrictions between dirty zones and clean zones are effectively maintained.

It is very important that clean zones are not accidentally contaminated after the assessment and classification, otherwise a review of the land status may be required.

Clean zones are managed under the processes and procedures detailed in the Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4.

#### Dirty land

**If the land is considered at a higher risk of contamination by Panama TR4, the land will be designated as a dirty zone and become part of the farm's dirty zones.**

Like clean zones, dirty zones are managed under the processes and procedures detailed in the Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4.

Dirty zones are subject to more stringent biosecurity requirements.

### Minimising the risk

**The processes and procedures to minimise the risk can vary depending on the farm and on the situation. The Program works with the affected grower to tailor the requirements to ensure adequate levels of biosecurity are being met to protect the farm and the broader industry. An example Notice of presence of Panama disease tropical race 4 and a range of on-farm biosecurity best management practices can be found at [biosecurity.qld.gov.au](http://biosecurity.qld.gov.au).**