

Signs of Panama TR4



Yellowing leaf margin



Entire leaf yellowing with leaf margins browning



Skirt of dead leaves around stem



Report sick banana plants 13 25 23

If you think any banana plants might have Panama TR4

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 straight away.

Don't cut or remove a sick plant. Cutting stimulates the fungus, promoting spore production and increasing the risk of the disease spreading on and off the property. It can also make it harder to get samples for diagnostic testing.

If you have cut down a banana plant and it looks suspicious, contact Biosecurity Queensland to take a sample as quickly as possible.

Keep eating bananas!

Fortunately Panama TR4 does not affect the fruit, so bananas are still delicious and good to eat.

Find out more

Visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au to find out more about Panama disease tropical race 4 or call 13 25 23.

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@BiosecurityQld

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Panama disease tropical race 4



Panama TR4 is a serious disease of banana plants and it is here in Far North Queensland.

Panama TR4 is one of the greatest threats to banana production worldwide and we need your help to protect our banana industry.

What does it do?

Panama disease tropical race 4 (Panama TR4) kills banana plants. It is a fungus that lives in the soil and enters the plant via the roots. It travels up the plant stem and blocks the tissues that carry water and nutrients. Infected plants eventually yellow, wilt and die.

How is it found?

Since the disease was first detected in Far North Queensland in 2015, Biosecurity Queensland have been conducting regular surveillance on banana farms to look for the disease. Growers are encouraged to check their own plants for the disease. If signs of the disease are found, samples of the plant are taken and are tested for the disease. If results confirm Panama TR4 is present, steps are taken to control and contain the disease.

How is it spread?

Panama TR4 is easily spread in contaminated soil and water, and infected planting material. People are the biggest source of risk through movement of dirty vehicles, footwear, equipment, machinery and other things.

Can it be controlled?

Panama TR4 can't be eradicated by any biological or chemical controls. Early detection, combined with rapid destruction of infected banana plants and on-farm restrictions are the only way to control and contain the disease. Scientists around the world are working hard on eradication methods and developing more resistant Panama TR4 banana varieties.



What's at stake?

Far North Queensland grows 95% of Australia's bananas.

Banana growers support our community with income, jobs and produce.

If Panama TR4 is not managed, it could have a huge impact on our Australian banana industry and the communities that rely upon it. In some countries, Panama TR4 has had a devastating impact on local banana production and people's livelihoods.

It's a challenging time. To keep the banana industry a central part of our economy, and to support our growers and our community, we all need to work together.

It's up to all of us.

Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility.

How you can help

- X** Don't enter a banana farm without permission.
- X** Don't spread the disease. If you visit a farm, follow on-farm biosecurity rules. Come clean, leave clean.
- X** Don't move banana plants or planting material.
- ✓** Keep your eyes peeled for Panama TR4 – report suspect plants immediately on 13 25 23.
- ✓** Educate yourself about the disease and how its spread.
- ✓** Look out for the wellbeing of our growers, their workers and their families.



Always come clean, leave clean