

Banana Bunchy-top virus disease

Recognize the problem

Banana Bunchy-top virus disease attacks banana. It is not yet in Uganda but it is in nearby countries and we must look out for it so that it can be controlled if it comes to Uganda.

- Rub off the wax on the leaf stalk and observe the "dots" and "dashes" (Picture 2).
- On the leaf area there are 'J-hooks' which point down along the midrib toward the leaf stalk.
- Leaves show yellow patterns and are very small, they are upright and squeezed/bunched. If a plant produces fruit, they are small and deformed

This disease must be reported to Agricultural Officer /Ministry of Agriculture as it is essential that it is kept out of Uganda. If you suspect that you have this disease in your garden contact the Agricultural Officer immediately.

Background

It is spread over short distances by an insect (Picture 1) and over long distances by people transporting sick planting materials. It is essential that farmers do not bring in banana plants from outside Uganda

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Management

This is such a bad disease that an Agricultural Officer will want to find out the cause.

If you see these symptoms, spray with an insecticide to stop the insect (aphid) movement AND do not move any material from the field until an agricultural Officer has seen the symptoms.

Picture 1: Aphid Nymph on pseudo-stem. (Photo by IITA)



Picture 2: "Dots" and "Dashes" pattern on Leaf petiole. (Photo by IITA)



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Banana Bunchy-top Virus**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda



Authors: Idd Ramathani, Fen Beed, Valentine Nakato
National Crops Resources Research Institute
tel: +256752996133; +256793996133 email: i.ramathani@gmail.com

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