



KALRO/NAVCDP Programme Factsheet No.069/2024

Integrated Pest Management of Major Banana Diseases in Kenya



Healthy banana
Source: Ngugi, CN KALRO, 2024



Disease progression characterized by, greyish ashy necrotic tissue on fruit tips. Source: Ngugi, CN, KALRO, 2024



Advanced disease damage showing greyish ash cigar end on banana fingers. Source: Kwambai, TK. KALRO

Disease name: Cigar End Rot Disease (*Verticillium theobromae* and *Trachysphaera fructigena*)

Description

The dry flower parts are invaded and the skin is penetrated by the fungus. The disease is favored by high humidity (e.g. overcrowding in the orchard or stool, and enormous leaf trash).

Disease/ Pest category

Fungal

Diagnosis/Identification

Dry rot with an ashy gray appearance similar to the burnt end of a cigar.
Conditions contributing to proliferation of the pathogen are:

- Warm moist conditions (common in high altitude areas)
- Orchards with high humidity as a result of excessive shading
- Overcrowded stool, and abundant leaf trash



Management Strategy

The following management options are recommended:

Cultural practices

- Routine scouting, monitoring and action after the first symptom is noticed
- Field sanitation-removal of trash
- Removal of excess suckers
- Pruning old leaves
- Removal of male flower 15 cm below the last hand
- Remove and burn drooping, dying and dead leaves to reduce inoculum levels
- Remove and burry infected fingers
- Use of plastic bag to cover the banana bunch.

Chemical management

Application of fungicides including;

- Propineb (Antracol WP70®)
- Mancozeb (Dithane M-45 WP®, AGRITHANE @WP,

Note:

- Always consult recent list of registered pesticides at PCPB (www.pcpb.go.ke)
- Agro-chemicals should be used in consultation with professional practitioners and considering existing cautionary/safety measures, including the manufacturer's instructions.

Geographic Coverage

The disease is commonly found in all banana producing areas in the country and is severe during warm and wet conditions.

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Disclaimer: The content of this publication is for general information to banana farmers and technical staff only and no person should act, or fail to act on the basis of the information herein without professional advice from crop health experts affiliated to Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

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