

Panama Disease

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PANAMA DISEASE

Panama Disease Latest News

Recently, scientists discovered a gene that could save bananas from deadly Panama disease.

About Panama Disease

- Panama disease is also known as **fusarium wilt**.
- It is a **devastating disease of bananas** caused by the soil-inhabiting fungus species.
- **Cause:** It is caused by the **fungus Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense**, which **lives in soil** and can survive there for many years.
- This disease **affects the Cavendish variety** or the G9 Banana cultivar, which is the most widely grown banana in the world.
- **Spread:** The fungus resides below ground and **infects the plant through its roots**.
- The infection then stops water and essential nutrients from being transported to the rest of the plant.
- The disease is so deadly that it is **sometimes referred to as 'banana cancer'**.

Symptoms of Panama Disease

- The **leaves begin to wilt**, and the stem of the plant starts turning dark brownish before the plant dies.
- The first external symptom of Panama is the **irregular yellowing of the margins of older leaves**, which later turn brown and dry out.
- These leaves eventually collapse along the leaf stalk or at the junction of the stalk and stem, resulting in a skirt of dead leaves forming around the lower part of the plant.

Source: **DTE**

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