



Biosecurity alert: Banana freckle

Banana freckle
(*Phyllosticta cavendishii*)

What to look for and how to reduce the spread

Banana freckle is a fungal disease of Cavendish bananas caused by the fungus *Phyllosticta cavendishii*

The disease impacts plant health and productivity by reducing the amount of healthy leaf area and affects fruit quality and appearance.

Banana freckle is a serious threat to the banana industry for commercial production as well as backyard growers.

It is a declared pest in Western Australia.

If you suspect banana freckle is present in your plants, you must report it by phoning the Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) on (08) 9368 3080.



What to look for

Banana freckle causes spotting on banana leaves and fruit. The signs include:



- Brown spots on the leaves and fruit.
- Blemishes on the fruit. This increases as the fruit matures.



- A sandpaper-like texture on leaves and fruit. This is caused by the fungus sticking up through the surface of the leaf or skin.



- Spotting may extend to the flower bracts, leaf midrib and bunch stalks



- Large areas of the fruit's surface may become black due to dense spotting.

Help stop the spread

Banana freckle is a 'wet spore' organism. It generally moves short distances by water droplet splashes and wind-driven rain.

The pest is spread over larger distances by people moving infected fruit, leaves and suckers used for planting.



Report your observations

MyPestGuide® Reporter
via app or online
mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Pest and Disease Information Service
(08) 9368 3080
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