



Fusariosis in a plant sucker of the susceptible variety Perola

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EXOTIC THREATS: FUSARIOSIS

What is it?

Fusariosis (*Fusarium guttiforme*) is a major threat to pineapple cultivation worldwide due to the susceptibility of the main varieties to this disease. This pathogen survives on suckers, slips and crowns that are infected while still attached to the mother plant. Infected planting material is the primary source of spread to new fields. Abandoned plantings are also an important source of inoculums.

Open flowers are the principal site of infection. Injuries caused by insects, particularly the pineapple fruit caterpillar, *Thecla basillides* may promote infection of the inflorescence and fruit. Once established in a region the disease is spread by wind, rain and insect vectors.

F. guttiforme does not survive more than 10 months in soil or infested residues, and infected soils are not considered a primary source of inoculum.

What do I look for?

All parts of the plant can be affected with an exudation of gum from infected tissues. Stem rosetting and curvature of the plant occur because portions of the stem are girdled or killed. Fruit symptoms are characterised by a soft rot of the flesh, gum accumulation in the locules of the ovary and gum exudation from the infected fruit. As disease develops the peel of the infected fruitlet changes to dark brown and becomes sunken.

Where is it found?

Fusariosis has not been reported outside of South America. It is known to occur in Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Reporting

If you suspect you may have seen Fusarium stem rot or Fusariosis, you should report it immediately to maximise the

chances of eradicating this pest before it can become established in Australia.

Growers may report suspected exotic pests to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline (1800 084 881) or can directly contact their relevant state agriculture or primary industries department.

To minimise the risk of disease spread, samples should not be moved until they have been checked by an expert.

This fact sheet is part of the Pineapple Industry Biosecurity Plan. For more information about the Biosecurity Plan, please contact Plant Health Australia.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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