

Identification, prevention and control of banana xanthomonas wilt disease (BXW)

Bacteria xanthomonas wilt is a bacterial disease that is mainly transmitted through man, farm tools, vectors, infected planting materials and animals.

There signs of attack are premature wilting and dying of leaves, sticky yellow liquid appears when pseudo, leaf sheath, fruit fingers are cut, male bud wilts and dies, brown stains in fruit finger pulp and fruit fingers ripe prematurely and turn black.

Prevention and control

Remove male buds soon as the last bunch forms using a forked stick to avoid plant to plant infection.

Clean and sterilize tools by bleaching or fire when moving from plant to plant to kill the disease causing bacteria.

Tether all browsing animals where disease outbreaks have occurred.

Use clean suckers from clean fields and use tissue cultured certified plants.

Uproot, chop and bury or chop and dry plants with symptoms.

Apply 10 milliliters of 2 4 D to infected plants this is more safer since there is no movement of tools.

Suspend de leafing, de suckering and cutting leaves for 3-4 weeks to allow infected plants show symptoms.

Cut dried leaves and to avoid sap that contains the bacteria

Be vigilant and report suspicious symptoms to agricultural extension agent.