

Managing coffee wilt disease

Coffee wilt disease is a dangerous disease to coffee farmers that results into total crop loss, however it spreads from one branch to and has no cure, proper management practices controls the disease.

There are several signs that may appear when the plant is infected, these include yellowing of leaves, leaf fall off, premature fruit ripening and drying, blackened inner stem, drying of stems.

Management practices

First remove weeds, crop stubbles and aged trees as these may act as disease reservoirs also do not use coffee husks in coffee plantations as these may introduce the disease in the garden, additionally when harvesting, harvest trees you are not sure of last to stop the spread of the disease from plant to plant. Furthermore do not bruise coffee trees since the bruises act as disease entry points while applying the required plant nutrients to increase plant strength

To add on that mulch to conserve soil moisture and nutrients however if the disease persists, completely cut down diseased plants, collect and burn them to avoid the disease spread but ensure that fire does not spread to other uninfected plants to avoid damaging them. Conclusively sterilize all tools used like pangas and hoes to control the spread of the disease to the field.