

# RISK ASSESSMENT TOOL

## Panama disease prevention checklist – Banana farm practices

### How to use this checklist

By considering the various practices associated with banana growing, this checklist will help to assess the risk of Panama disease infection to your property, and identify what are the most significant infection pathways to your business.

- Banana production practices change over time, therefore it is important that you complete this checklist each time you change farm practices to assess your risk.
- Keeping a copy of previously completed checklists is useful as a farm management tool to track progress

### How to complete this checklist

Answer each statement by placing a tick or cross in the column that best fits your current practice or knowledge. For example:

Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
<b>Before you start your farm (including land selection)</b>				
You and your staff can identify the typical symptoms of Panama disease infection	<b>X</b>			
You and your staff clearly understand the biology of Panama disease and how it spreads			<b>X</b>	

Answers in the **boxes shaded red**, identify the practices that pose the **greatest threat** for potential Panama disease infection. If your answer to any of these questions falls in a red shaded box then the **risk of Panama disease infection is significantly increased** and changes to your farm practices are urgently needed.

Assessor

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of assessment

\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

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Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
<b>Before you start your farm – cropping history, knowledge of disease, financial resources, quarantine requirements</b>				
Cropping history of the site is known, including any record of Panama disease				
You know if Panama disease has been identified in the past on neighbouring properties or properties above you in the catchment				
You are aware of any quarantine regulations and requirements that relate to Panama disease				
You can identify the typical symptoms of Panama disease infection				
Your key staff can identify the typical symptoms of panama disease infection				
You clearly understand the biology of Panama disease and how it spreads				
Your key staff clearly understand the biology of Panama disease and how it spreads				
The business has an established procedure with staff for reporting possibly infected plants				
<i>The business has the financial resources and knowledge to undertake essential practices such as:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing and enforcing a strict farm quarantine policy for the movement of all people (staff, visitors, contractors) on to your farm</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing quarantine features such as bunded vehicle wash-down facilities at every entrance to the farm</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using only certified tissue-cultured planting material for each and every planting that will be made on your farm</li> </ul>				

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Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a plantation layout to manage the movement of runoff water on to and within the farm</li> </ul>				
<b>Sourcing planting material</b>				
Only certified Panama disease free tissue-cultured planting material is used for each and every planting that will be made on your farm				
<b>Machinery, equipment and people visiting your farm</b>				
An education program, and training in effective decontamination & on-farm biosecurity, is active on the property. Decontamination procedures and facilities, for vehicles, machinery and people that enter your property are in place.				
<i>Prior to entry, decontamination is carried out on these identified pathways:</i>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All staff</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All visitors – local, interstate &amp; international</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earth-moving equipment</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract cultivation equipment</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laser levelling equipment</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehicles applying lime or soil amendments</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract mounding equipment</li> </ul>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machinery used for irrigation installation</li> </ul>				

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Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
• Bore drilling vehicles				
• Irrigation contractors/delivery vehicles				
• Fertiliser contractors/spreading machinery				
• Fertiliser delivery vehicles				
• Agronomists/consultants				
• Government agencies				
• Bell injection contractors				
• Deleafing contractors				
• Bagging contractors				
• Desuckering contractors				
• Harvest contractors				
• Harvest trailers and trucks moving between farms				
• Packaging delivery vehicles				
• Freight vehicles				

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Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
• Pallets contaminated with soil or banana material				
• Rubbish collection				
• Electricity companies				
• Fuel distributors				
• Pig hunters & their vehicles				
<b>Soil movement</b>				
Crop removal practices that minimise the movement of soil and machinery are implemented				
The farm layout is planned and implemented for Panama disease prevention and management – the farm is surveyed for optimum placement of roads, drainage, water storage, runoff etc				
<b>Water movement</b>				
Land is selected that is free from flooding or major overland flow that can move soil or plants contaminated with Panama disease				
<b>Crop nutrition</b>				
Fertiliser products and amendments used are free of Panama disease (consider products like manures, composts, mill mud, mill ash etc)				
<b>Irrigation</b>				
<i>Your water source for irrigation and packing is:</i>				

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Aspects of banana farming and associated Panama disease risk	Yes	No	Don't know	N/A
• Free from Panama disease spores (eg. deep bore source)				
• Is managed so that it cannot be contaminated by infected runoff				
• Is sanitised appropriately to kill Panama disease spores				
Re-used irrigation equipment is effectively decontaminated				
<b>Pest, disease &amp; weed management</b>				
Other pests, diseases and weeds that may mask Panama disease symptoms are managed (eg Bacterial corm rot)				
Animals that move potentially contaminated soil or plant material are managed or excluded				

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