## Yellow sigatoka of banana

**Mycosphaerella musicola**

### Prevention
- When planting new crop in a disease hot spot area consider using resistant FHIA hybrids or use planting materials from healthy plants
- Use large spacing or planting distances (3m x 3m) to ensure good air circulation between the plants. This reduces humidity and promotes dry leaf surfaces making conditions unfavourable for the disease
- Remove suckers to avoid clustering
- Ensure good drainage in the fields and weed frequently as this reduces the humidity and the disease
- Avoid transporting infected plants into disease-free regions

### Monitoring
- Monitor field regularly looking for symptoms of the disease:
  - The early symptoms include light green/yellow specks on the upper surface of leaves. As the disease develops the specks develop into red/brown streaks running parallel with the leaf veins. The streaks become larger and the surrounding leaf tissue turns yellow
  - Take necessary action when the early symptoms are observed
  - The symptoms of yellow sigatoka are very similar to black sigatoka but the disease management method is the same

### Direct Control
- Rogue out young infected plants that have just shown symptoms of Sigatoka and burn
- Remove older infected leaves regularly and burn or stack on top of each other to reduce the disease spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Control</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- When using a pesticide or botanical, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label</td>
<td>- Who Class U (unlikely to present acute hazard in normal use). Start application when diseases first appears, ensure spray reaches the youngest leaves on the top of the plant. Repeat every 7-14 days observe REI of 24hrs. Follow other safety and first aid instructions on the label</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Do not use chemicals with the same mode of action year after year as this can lead to resistance</td>
<td>- Always consult the most recent list of registered pesticides of MOFA, Ghana</td>
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<td>- According to the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) Mycosphaerella musicola has a medium risk of developing resistance to fungicides</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Spray with Thiophanate methyl (400g/l) (Callis 400 OL) Apply at a rate of Apply 31-41g/15litre knapsack. Methyl benzimidazole carbamate (MBC) fungicide with systemic action (FRAC group: B1)</td>
<td>- WHO Class II (Moderately hazardous) Apply as soon as disease is first seen within the crop or when the wet season begins, ensure spray reaches the youngest leaves on the top of the plant. Repeat at 21-28 days interval. Do not enter treated areas during the within 24 hours after spray.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Propiconazole 250EC (Tilt). Apply at a rate of 15mils / 15ltr knapsack as a full-coverage spray to the point of drip. Triazoles fungicide with systemic action (FRAC group: G1)</td>
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**Ghana**

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