



Anthracnose on banana

Colletotrichum musae

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control
 <p>Lesion symptoms on banana (Scot Nelson, Flickr.com)</p>  <p>Yellowing fruit symptoms showing fungal spread (Scot Nelson, Flickr.com)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthracnose is caused by the fungus <i>Colletotrichum musae</i>, commonly found in plant debris and fruit. • Use plastic coverings on emerging fruit to prevent infection. • Avoid damaging fruit tissue during harvest and storage. • Remove decaying plant parts such as leaves. • Actively remove weeds and other non-crop species from plots to reduce favourable humid conditions for fungal infection. • Sufficient irrigation and draining of plantations to reduce unnecessary conditions which favour fungi. • Place green fruit in hot water bath (55°C) for 2 minutes to reduce fungal infection post-harvest. Timings may vary between crop varieties, contact a local expert/advisory board for suitable timings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively monitor crop during fruit development. Symptoms include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark brown/black lesions on green fruit. • On yellow fruit these lesions increase in size, orange fungal growth can be found in centre of lesions. • Symptoms can also be found on the tips of fruit. • Premature ripening of fruit. • Monitoring of fungal infection should continue throughout post-harvest storage as fungal infection may develop following damage to fruit/spread of infection during harvest/storage/transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively remove non-crop species from banana plantations to reduce favourable fungal environments. • Use of biofungicides during harvest (10% Arabic gum and 1.0% chitosan) to control fungal spread in storage. • Use of natural plant extracts to reduce fungal growth (citric, ginger rhizomes, <i>Clerodendrum inerme</i> extracts). • Biological control of anthracnose on banana crops is still under development, be advised to contact a local expert for further advice on recommendations and application methods.

Note: Pesticides may be available to control this pest. Please check with the Ministry of Agriculture in your country to find out which pesticides are registered in your country and the local restrictions for their use.