

HOW TO CONTROL BUNCHY TOP



If your plant or clump of banana plants has Bunchy Top, there is NO treatment that will ever cure the disease. The only way is to destroy infected plants and start with new plants.

Once plants are completely destroyed, you can replant with clean planting material. The disease does not stay in the soil.

To destroy the plant/s there are three important, simple steps you can follow, in this order:

1. Do NOT disturb the plant.

You do not want any infected aphids flying off and spreading the disease even further. They can be carried by the wind and can potentially spread the disease many kilometres.

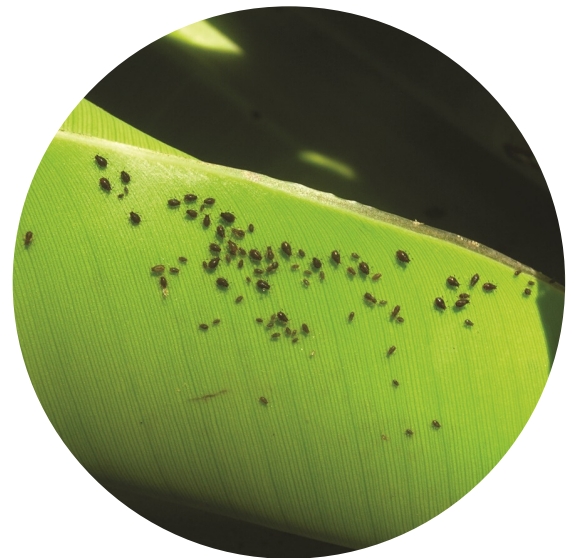
2. Stop the infected aphids and their possible spread.

Spray the whole plant (especially where the leaves emerge from the main trunk and around the base of the plant or clump) with SACOA Biopest Oil (certified for organic farming) or any highly refined paraffin oil. This will smother any aphids.

3. Kill the plant.

The most effective and targeted way is by stem injecting with glyphosate* (eg 'Round Up' or 'Zero'). Alternatively, the 'cut & kero' method works too – cut the plant down, scoop the middle of the stem or trunk and pour kerosene into the well.

You will need to re-treat as the backward eyes or buds will not be killed by the first application to the mother plant. If chemicals are not used, then infected plants must be physically destroyed and that's hard work!



NOTE: If one stem is infected, the whole clump will be too, so it will need to be destroyed.

**IMPORTANT: Read and follow directions as stated on the product label when using agricultural chemicals.*



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The National Bunchy Top Project is funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using the banana industry levy and funds from the Australian Government.