

# ABGC CIRCULAR 10/20 - BANANA BUNCHY TOP PROGRAM

## Project objectives and expectations



### **WE NEED YOUR HELP to improve the effectiveness of the National Bunchy Top Program.**

The Bunchy Top Program is a service provided to all growers in the production areas affected by Bunchy Top.

Services provided by the Program to growers include visiting properties, inspecting plantations for Bunchy Top, destroying infected plants, and reporting infestation to government.

Legally, the responsibility for undertaking these activities remains with the property owner, NOT the Program.

A critical component of the Program is to also provide education and training to empower growers to help identify, contain and control Bunchy Top on their own property.

**⚠️ *The Banana Bunchy Top Program is funded by ALL Australian commercial banana growers through industry levies. It operates in infected areas to both support growers to minimise the impact of Bunchy Top within a property and control spread to other properties.***

### **What does the Bunchy Top Program and the Industry expect from you as a grower?**

**⚠️ *To help protect your future as a banana grower, you will be expected as much as possible to accompany Bunchy Top inspectors when they visit your plantation:***

- ***to be trained in and view the symptoms of Bunchy Top – to be able to “spot” more advanced symptoms which will help you and the Program to destroy plants quickly before aphids spread to healthy plants;***
- ***to be trained in the correct method of destroying infected banana plants; and***
- ***to regularly monitor for and report Bunchy Top***

### **About Bunchy Top and the Program**

Banana Bunchy Top virus is the most devastating viral disease of bananas worldwide. It poses a major commercial threat to Australia’s banana producers, individual businesses and their employees. Bunchy Top Virus has been in Australia for more than 100 years. While it has not been eradicated, it has been contained and it is only found in a small part of Australia.

**⚠️ *Successful eradication and control has been achieved on infected plantations in combination with support from the Banana Bunchy Top Program, assistance of growers, and from government.***

The Banana Bunchy Top Program also works with the community to destroy infected plants to prevent spread from those properties to commercial banana plantations.

### **What are the legal consequences of not identifying, reporting and destroying infested plants?**

Within Queensland and New South Wales, it is the responsibility of the grower/property owner to report and destroy infected plants when required.

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Significant consequences can result if a person does not meet their general biosecurity obligation or duty in both States. Government inspectors are legally authorised to enforce biosecurity orders to deal with any inaction resulting in a biosecurity impact/consequence to the community, the environment or the economy.

With your participation, we will be protecting your industry and increasing the efficiency of our Bunchy Top program and maintaining wider support for continuation of the Program by all banana industry levy payers.

### For further information

- Call the Bunchy Top Hotline on 1800 068 371; or
- Email ABGC at [info@abgc.org.au](mailto:info@abgc.org.au); or
- Call ABGC on (+61 7) 3278 4786; or
- Contact your relevant State government department for agriculture and biosecurity to enquire about your specific legislative requirements.

## SPOT REPORT VERIFY DESTROY



**Hort  
Innovation**  
Strategic levy investment

**BANANA  
FUND**

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