Farm Waste Management

Most banana farms sit within a Reef catchment, so managing waste correctly protects your property, helps you avoid fines and reduces risks to waterways.

Manage waste by:

- Securing loose waste (including bunch covers) so it can't blow or wash away
- Keeping banana bags and plastics away from riverbanks and flood-prone areas
- Taking waste to your local Transfer Station (check Local Government for locations and fees)
- Burying waste on-farm only in safe areas away from waterways

Burning plastic is illegal. Report pollution concerns to the Pollution Hotline:

1300 130 372

pollutionhotline@detsi.qld.gov.au

Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)

QRIDA provides financial support that helps you recover, expand and invest confidently in your farming business.

QRIDA can assist you with:

- Disaster recovery support
- Loans for new or expanding farms
- Rebates and financial programs for primary producers

QRIDA has staff based in South Johnstone. For local support, contact: Sam Spina, Regional Area Manager, Far North Queensland.

sam.spina@qrida.qld.gov.au

1800 623 946

Workforce Access and Employer Obligations

Understanding your workforce options helps you to stay compliant and find reliable workers. Many growers use local workers, licensed labour hire providers or the PALM scheme, which supplies seasonal and long-term workers from the Pacific and Timor-Leste. Many growers also hire backpackers.

Growers who are Approved Employers invest heavily to employ and manage PALM workers.

If you aren't an Approved Employer, it is illegal to recruit PALM workers, as it risks worker welfare and can impact the community and the industry's social license.

Whichever option you choose, ensure any workers or labour hire companies you engage are licensed, compliant and familiar with banana farm requirements. Seek support and/or report concerns regarding PALM workers via the hotline:

1800 51 51 31

palmscheme.gov.au/how-apply

Business Qld: Finding agriculture workers
business.qld.gov.au/industries/farms-fishing-forestry/agriculture/business/workforce/find

QGlobe

QGlobe gives you detailed property information that helps you make better decisions about farm design, suitability and long-term land management.

You can access:

- Land suitability reports
- Soil types and vegetation maps
- Waterways and land parcels
- Aerial imagery

Visit the QGlobe website to explore data about your property and better plan your farm management.

qldglobe.information.qld.gov.au

Welcome

From the Australian Banana Growers' Council

Australian Banana Growers

The Australian Banana Growers' Council (ABGC) works to protect your farm and secure the future of the Australian banana industry.

Founded in 1961, ABGC is the national peak body representing commercial banana growers across Australia. We give growers a strong, united voice on issues that affect your business and lead projects that support a profitable, sustainable industry.

ABGC is run by growers, for growers, with a Board representing key growing regions. Grower membership is vital to our existence.

Farm the Right Way in FNQ

Starting or taking over a banana farm in the Wet Tropics comes with a range of rules, regulations and best practice requirements.

Get it wrong, and the cost is huge including:

- Lost income from diseased crops
- Fines for breaching regulations
- Years of recovery for your farm

Whether you're new to farming or new to bananas, this brochure brings together the key information and support that will help you set up and farm the right way, protecting your farm, your profits, and the banana industry.

Protect Your Farm & Your Future
Visit www.abgc.org.au to learn more and become a member.

Stay Connected

To receive general industry information and updates, email communications@abgc.org.au to be added to our distribution list.
ABGC offices are located in Brisbane and Far North Queensland.
Email info@abgc.org.au for more information.
Or visit our website at www.abgc.org.au

Follow us @AustralianBananaGrowers

YouTube

MEMBER · AUSTRALIAN BANANA GROWERS' COUNCIL ·

Become a member today!

members@abgc.org.au

www.abgc.org.au/membership

Biosecurity that Protects Your Livelihood AND the Industry's Future.

Panama disease TR4 is here to stay. It kills banana plants and is already present on several farms in Tully. It spreads easily through soil on boots, clothing, equipment and vehicles – often before you even know it's there.

Start clean
Always plant new blocks using tissue-cultured plants from a QBAN-registered nursery.

Approved QBAN nurseries and email contacts include:

- Mission Beach Tissue Culture Laboratory and Nursery - sdlavis4@bigpond.com
- Lowes TC Pty Ltd - greg@lowestc.com.au, patricia@lowestc.com.au and natasha@lowestc.com.au
- Sival Farming Tissue Culture Nursery - sdlavis4@bigpond.com
- Yuruga Laboratory and Nursery - admin@howefarms.com.au
- Ausplant Nursery - brady@ausplantnursery.com.au

Reduce the risk
Sharing equipment between farms is one of the fastest ways TR4 spreads. Symptoms may not appear until plants begin yellowing, by then, the disease has already moved.

Once detected, plants within a 5 × 5 metre radius of the infected plant must be destroyed to stop further spread.

How ABGC Supports Growers

ABGC's Grower Support (Biosecurity) team is here to help. We work with growers to put practical protections in place that suit your farm layout and budget.

What you get:

- Regular farm visits and surveillance
- Help to build or update your Biosecurity Plan
- Free farm-gate biosecurity signage
- Clear, practical tools you can use straight away

A strong biosecurity plan is the best way to protect your farm and its long-term value. Contact us at:

growersupport@abgc.org.au

abgc.org.au

Less Hassle, Better Outcomes for You and Your Farm

Our Best Management Practice (BMP) team will work with you so you can improve your productivity and support you to meet the environmental regulations.

abgc.org.au/reef-protection-regulations

What we can do for you:

- Simple BMP assessments and improvement plans
- Help with mapping, record keeping, nutrient and erosion management
- Connections to grants, experts and workshops

The BMP Team is here to make things easier and more cost effective, giving you the confidence that your farm is productive, compliant and future ready. Contact us at:

bmp@abgc.org.au **bmp.abgc.org.au**

Stay One Step Ahead of Pests and Diseases

ABGC's Plant Health Officer, Carl Rickson, is here to help growers boost productivity and profitability by reducing the pests and diseases on your farm especially leaf spot.

Carl will visit your farm to:

- Diagnose pests and diseases
- Offer tailored, practical management advice
- Explain what surveillance or biosecurity activities mean for your farm

This will save you time and money in the long run, while protecting the industry.

carl@abgc.org.au

dpi.qld.gov.au/biosecurity_guidelines

betterbananas.com.au/biosecurity-for-bananas/

abgc.org.au/ABGC_Biosecurity-Code-of-Practice

Additional Resources

Reef Regulations (Cropping and Permits)

Understanding Reef regulations early helps you avoid delays and stay compliant when starting, expanding or moving banana growing activities. Reef protection regulations aim to reduce pollution from farms entering the Great Barrier Reef. If you plan to start, expand, or change to banana growing on land (five hectares or more) without a cropping history in a Reef region, you may need an Environmental Authority (permit).

For more information or to check your requirements, contact:

qld.gov.au/requirementsforbananagrowers

Research, Development & Extension (DPI)

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) delivers Banana Research, Development and Extension (RD&E), tackling key challenges like pest and disease management, varieties, soil health, Panama disease, and nutrient optimisation. Research is shared with growers alongside production and management advice through the DPI banana extension team.

For more information, contact the DPI Banana Extension Team:

betterbananas@dpi.qld.gov.au

13 25 23

betterbananas.com.au

Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers (DLGWV)

DLGWV helps you access the water information you need to manage your property safely, compliantly and confidently. You can contact the department to:

- Check water licences for your property
- Access flood data and bore maps
- Learn about water trading

For local support, contact our Senior Water Officer:

WaterServicesNorth@dlgwv.qld.gov.au

1800 822 100

SmartAg Queensland

SmartAg gives you access to subsidised training so you can develop a skilled, dependable workforce and improve how labour runs on your farm.

You can access accredited, non-accredited and micro-credential training to grow skills across your team.

qff.org.au/projects/smartag/

Australian Banana Growers