

# CHECK YOUR PLANTS FOR PANAMA TR4



**Early detection through regular surveillance is the most effective way to protect banana farms from the spread of Panama TR4.**

In addition to the ABGC Grower Support (Biosecurity) surveillance program, growers who regularly check their own plants for signs of Panama TR4 may extend their farm viability through early detection and containment of the disease. Prompt reporting of plants with symptoms of Panama TR4 is a legal requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*.

## Who should check your plants?

You, or any of your team, who are in paddocks on a regular basis, are best placed to check for potential symptoms of Panama TR4.

These team members can include:

- de-leafers
- stringers
- baggers
- bell injectors
- any personnel that access the paddocks regularly

## What to do if you find a suspect plant

**A suspect plant or plants should be immediately reported to Biosecurity Queensland or to ABGC Grower Support (Biosecurity).**

**If you find a suspect plant you should:**

- 1 Mark the plant with flagging tape or spray paint.
- 2 Record the location details of the plant (block, row, etc.) to help find it again, or take a GPS location point.
- 3 If possible, take pictures to help with identification.
- 4 Limit access to the plant (for example cordon off an area around it).
- 5 Tell your supervisor or the property owner so they can call Biosecurity Queensland or ABGC Grower Support.

### What happens next?

Once notified, ABGC Field Officers will visit your property and may take a sample of the plant showing symptoms. The sample is sent to the specialised laboratory in Brisbane where it is tested for Panama TR4.

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