

# BLACK SIGATOKA

## CAN BE SPREAD BY:

- **Nature:** Wind and rain
- **Man:** Moving of contaminated plants and plant parts
- **Farm to farm:** Packaging material (especially banana and plantain leaves/trash) and tools

## EFFECTS OF

### BLACK SIGATOKA DISEASE

- Damage to leaves making them non-functional
- Extends time between bunching and harvesting
- Decrease in yield and fruit quality
- Renders fruit unmarketable
- Decline in production and export potential
- Loss of income
- Premature ripening in the field and after harvest

## CONTROLLING

### BLACK SIGATOKA

Black Sigatoka may be controlled by a combination of the following:

<b>DE-LEAF</b>	Remove diseased portions of the leaves
<b>NUTRITION</b>	Good plant nutrition through proper and timely fertilizer application
<b>SANITATION</b>	Clean tools, equipment, clothing and boots after use
<b>DECREASE HUMIDITY</b>	Decrease humidity within fields by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- good drainage</li><li>- good weed control</li><li>- correct planting density</li></ul>
<b>FUNGICIDE</b>	Maintain a strict schedule of fungicide application and effective fungicide rotation

## IF YOU SUSPECT BLACK SIGATOKA DISEASE

Report all cases to the Division of Agriculture  
at the Botanical Gardens.



## DO NOT MOVE INFECTED BANANA AND PLANTAIN MATERIAL



### Division of Agriculture & Forestry

Plant Protection and Quarantine Services  
Botanical Gardens, Roseau  
Commonwealth of Dominica

Tel: 767 - 266 - 3820  
Fax: 767 - 448 - 8632

[agriquarantine@dominica.gov.dm](mailto:agriquarantine@dominica.gov.dm)

## Identification and Management Guide of

# BLACK SIGATOKA DISEASE



Now Present  
in  
Dominica

## What is Black Sigatoka Disease?

It is a deadly disease caused by the leaf spot fungus. (*Mycopharella fijiensis*).

It only attacks the leaves of banana and plantain.

## Where is Black Sigatoka Disease?

It has been detected in **Dominica**.

**Black Sigatoka** disease is found in almost all banana and plantain growing regions of the world including Asia, Africa, South and Central America and the Western Caribbean (Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Martinique, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago).



**PLANTAIN IS RESISTANT TO YELLOW SIGATOKA. IF THE SYMPTOMS SHOW ON PLANTAIN, THIS MEANS THAT BLACK SIGATOKA MAY BE PRESENT.**

## SYMPTOMS OF BLACK SIGATOKA DISEASE

### Stage 1

A small yellow speck visible on the underside of the leaf.



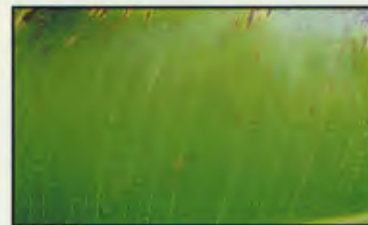
### Stage 2

Brown streak first seen on the lower side of the leaf, later appearing as a yellow streak on the upper part of the leaf (resembling Yellow Sigatoka). The colour on the upper side will gradually change to brown, dark brown or black, while the lower side remain brown.



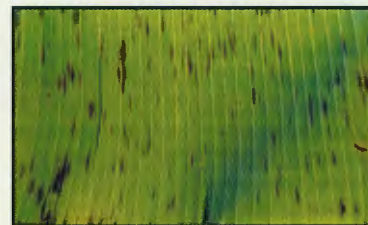
### Stage 3

Streak gets longer, wider and very dark brown in colour.



### Stage 4

Streak appears on the underside as a brown spot and on the upper side as a dark brown or black spot.



### Stage 5

The spot has a dark brown or black ring border and a centre that is dry and turns clear grey. Spot is surrounded by a yellow halo. Ring of the spot remains visible after the leaf has totally dried out.



## BLACK SIGATOKA DISEASE

