

Guide to identifying banana fruit fungal issues

Sooty blotch

- Multiple fungal organisms are associated with the symptoms.
- Presents as water-soaked shadowing.
- Damages skin surface and can't be removed by rubbing.



Sooty mould

- Caused by the combination of sap-feeding insects (banana aphids and mealybugs) and fungi, namely the genus *Cladosporium*.
- Black powdery growth occurs in dark layered sheets which can be peeled away or removed by rubbing (but the stain remains).



Fruit speckle

- Caused by multiple species of fungi including *Colletotrichum musae*, *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Fusarium semitectum*.
- Occurs first on fruit neck.
- Smooth reddish brown to black spots (0.5-1mm) with water-soaked margins.
- Previously known as 'swamp spot', 'salt and pepper spot' and 'Deightoniella spot'.



Deightoniella spot

- Caused by *Deightoniella torulosa*
- Spots are typically larger than fruit speckle (2-4mm) and sunken on green fruit.
- Less commonly detected in FNQ.



This information has been produced as part of the National Banana Development and Extension Program (BA19004) which is funded by Hort Innovation, using the banana industry research and development levies and contributions from the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture. The Queensland Government has also co-funded the project through the Department of Primary Industries.

Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) and the Queensland Government make no representations and expressly disclaim all warranties (to the extent permitted by law) about the accuracy, completeness, or currency of information in this factsheet. Reliance on any information provided by Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government is entirely at your own risk. Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government are not responsible for, and will not be liable for, any loss, damage, claim, expense, cost (including legal costs) or other liability arising in any way (including from Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government or any other person's negligence or otherwise) from your use or non-use of this factsheet or from reliance on information contained in the material or that Hort Innovation and the Queensland Government provides to you by any other means.