

Keep our bunch  
ahead a di race



## TROPICAL RACE 4

Tropical Race 4 (TR4) is a destructive fungal disease caused by the soil-borne fungus – *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense*. Tropical Race 4 is a major threat to banana production and trade. Should the pathogen enter Jamaica, extensive damage and yield loss is possible. Help us keep our bunch ahead of the Tropical Race 4 by reporting any sightings directly to the PQPI Branch.

### Tropical Race 4

(*Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense*)

TR4 is considered to be the most destructive disease of banana in modern times. Primary hosts of TR4 include bananas, plantains, and Heliconia plants.

#### Description

TR4 causes yellowing of the lower and older leaves. Yellowing usually begins at the edges of the leaves and continues towards the centre of the leaf. The lower leaves wilt and collapse forming a skirt around the plant while the younger leaves remain green and upright.



Leaf yellowing on plant  
(Photo credit: CPHD)

#### Distribution

TR4 is present in parts of Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Australia and Colombia.

The fungus spreads via production and dissemination of spores formed on dead and dying plants. These spores can travel on planting material, plant parts and contaminated soil. People, vehicles, water, tools and animals can also carry the disease.

#### Threat to Jamaica

Tropical Race 4 has the potential to cause mass damage to the agriculture industry. Banana cultivars such as plantains, cooking bananas and a diverse range of dessert banana varieties are also susceptible to TR4.

**If you see signs of TR4, contact the PQPI Branch  
at 876-977-0637 or 876-977-6401  
or the Banana Board at 876-922-2083 or 876-383-7235**

**QUARANTINE MATTERS!**