



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Oil palm basal stem rot (275)



Photo 1. Early symptoms of *Ganoderma* on oil palm showing drooping and yellowing of leaves.



Photo 2. Similar symptoms to Photo 1, except that the growth of the youngest leaves has slowed, and some are unfolded and short.



Photo 3. Windrowed oil palm with basidiocarps (brackets) of *Ganoderma* along its length.



Photo 4. New *Ganoderma* brackets formed at the base of an oil palm.



Photo 5. *Ganoderma* bracket growing from the basal stem and roots of an oil palm.



Photo 6. Basal rot in an oil palm that has caused the trunk to fall over, and an old bracket formed on the roots.

Summary

- Widespread distribution. Asia, Southeast Asia, Oceania. On oil palm, coconut and many other palms and trees. An important disease.
- Yellowing and mottling on older leaves, and they droop and rot; growth slows and spear leaves fail to unfurl; brackets grow from the base of the bole. Death occurs 6-12 months after first symptoms.
- Spread disputed: Is it root-to-root contact or spores?
- Cultural control: mound soil around infected palms to stimulate new roots; before replanting, either remove bole and shred

everything, or leave bole and windrow trunks; plant cover crops to hasten decay of the palms.

- Chemical control: none recommended.

Common Name

Basal stem rot of oil palm

Scientific Name

Ganoderma boninense

AUTHOR Grahame Jackson

Information from Rees RW, *et al.* (2012) *Ganoderma boninense* basidiospores in oil palm plantations: evaluation of their possible role in stem rots of *Elaeis guineensis*. Plant Pathology 61:567-578; and from Chung Gait Fee (2011) Management of Ganoderma diseases in oil palm plantations. Sustainable agriculture - an insight into Ganoderma. Agrinos Sch. Bhd., Kuala Lumpur; and CABI (2012) *Ganoderma boninense* (basal stem rot of oil palm) Crop Protection Compendium. (www.cabi.org/cpc).

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