Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Sugarcane pineapple disease (218)

Photo 1. Infection of sugarcane sett with black rot, *Ceratocystis paradoxa,* red at first and later turning black.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. On sugarcane, banana, pineapple, cocoa, coconut, sweetpotato, and others. Important as a wound fungus.
- A disease of sugarcane setts.
- Fungus enters cut ends, turning tissues red and then black with a pineapple smell. Buds and roots fail, plants dieback or are stunted with low sugar content.
- Spread by spores in wind, by insects, and by run-off water.
- Cultural control: use healthy setts from mature plants, at least 3-nodes long; drainage; use varieties that sprout rapidly; treat setts with hot water (51°C for 30 mins.); collect and burn trash after harvest.
- Chemical control: treat setts with carbendazim, if economic.

Common Name

Black rot, pineapple disease

Scientific Name

Ceratocystis paradoxa

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Information from CABI (2014) *Ceratocystis paradoxa* (black rot of pineapples) Crop Protection Compendium. (http://www.cabi.org.cpc/). Photo 1 Bureau of Sugarcane Experiment Station, Queensland, Australia. In Kohler F, Pellegrin F, Jackson G, McKenzie E (1997) *Diseases of cultivated crops in Pacific Island countries.* South Pacific Commission. Pirie Printers Pty Limited, Canberra, Australia.

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