

Brown root disease of cocoa

Phellinus noxius



Cocoa stem showing brown encrustation on trunk (A. Y. Akrofi, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove forest trees (alternative hosts) at least 4 years before planting cocoa in the same soil It is important to remove as many roots as possible from the soil as they can harbour the disease. Establish good ground cover on cleared land to speed up the decay of infected root parts Ensure that soil and root fragments from affected areas are not transported to uninfected farms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look out for the hard brittle encrustation of soil around the root and trunk from the base to 1m up from the ground Soil encrustation at base of diseased plant incorporates brown mycelium of the fungus which may be seen under a hand lens Look out also for foliar symptoms of yellowing of leaves followed by drying up of leaves, defoliation and dieback. Infected trees with highly decayed root systems lose support and may be blown over in strong winds. Disease is often discontinuous in distribution on farms Routine inspection and early detection aids in green control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove and burn infected trees and contact trees and their roots as soon as the disease is detected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no recommended chemical controls for this disease in Ghana 	



Ghana

CREATED/UPDATED: May 2016

AUTHOR(S): Andrews Y. Akrofi, Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, P.O. Box 8, Akim Tafo, Ghana

EDITED BY: Plantwise