




Bacterial blight of cassava

Xanthomonas axonopodis pv *manihotis* (Syn. *Xanthomonas campestris*) Bacterial blight of cassava

	Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<p>Scattered brown spots and yellow patches on leaves due to bacterial blight disease (EcoPort)</p>  <p>Candle like stems with blackened tips (Grahame Jackson)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bacterial blight is a soil borne bacterial disease that spreads through water splashes, mechanical damage and insect feeding (e.g. grasshoppers). Clean and disinfect farm tools before using them on another farm. Infected farmlands must be allowed to fallow for 2-3 years before planting cassava again. During the fallow period, cereals, grains or legumes can be planted. Use of healthy planting materials from research institutes e.g. International Institute for Tropical Agriculture and certified sales outlets. Use of resistant varieties like TMS30572, TMS91/02316 and 94/0026. Disinfect cuttings by immersing in hot water (roughly 60°C) for 20 minutes before planting. Intercrop with maize, sorghum or coco yam. Planting materials infected with bacterial blight must not be moved into other farming areas. Quarantine: cassava varieties from other countries must be tested before importation. In potassium-deficient soils, increase use of fertilizers to increase potassium content in leaves to reduce the potential disease severity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-planting: check stem cuttings at vegetative stage for small green spots and lesions, from a month after planting onwards. Check for white oozing when stem slices are immersed in water. Discard infected cuttings. At vegetative stage (2 months onward), check both upper and lower sides of leaves. Look for gummy exudates from wounded leaves and stems. Discard such plants. Look for symptoms like scattered or grouped brown spots with yellow patches on leaves. Observe moist regions around leaf spots. Look for fallen infected leaves and emergence of new leaves down the stem. Urgent action is required if 5-10 out of 60 cuttings are affected and 10-15 out of 100 plants in the field. If you see candle appearance of stems with blackened tips the direct control actions are too late. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roguing of infected plants immediately after first few rains. When carrying infected plants out of the field, do not touch healthy plants so not to infect them. When a bacterial blight outbreak occurs, harvest healthy root tubers and incorporate all residue deeply into the soil. Thereafter, rotate with cereals, grains or legumes for 2 seasons. Dust leaves with a thin layer of wheat flour which when fed on by the grasshopper, gums up its mouth part and prevents its feeding activities. Introduce chicken and guinea fowl to feed on disease carrying insects (12 - 24 birds/ acre). Long grain traps: get rid of grasshoppers and other pests by growing a patch of uncut grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no direct chemical control of cassava bacterial blight available at the moment. 	
 <p>Adult grasshoppers feeding on plant leaves (IITA)</p>					



CREATED/UPDATED:

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