



NSW Agriculture



Quarantine Regulations for Banana Planting Material

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Movement of banana material into and within New South Wales is subject to restrictions that are based on a pest and disease quarantine zone.

The aim of these restrictions is to avoid diseases and pests from spreading throughout New South Wales' banana growing areas. Some of these pests and diseases only occur overseas and some are only found in other parts of Australia.

Therefore, before planting or moving banana planting material within and into New South Wales, growers need a permit from their local NSW Agriculture regulatory officer. This officer will need to know the source of the planting material before a "banana planting and moving permit" can be issued. Movement of banana plant material, except fruit, into New South Wales is regulated under the *Plant Diseases Act 1924*.

MOVEMENT OF MATERIAL INTO AUSTRALIA

The Australian banana industry is free of several serious diseases that have a major impact on overseas industries. These diseases include Moko, black Sigatoka, blood disease and banana bract mosaic virus. Movement of banana plant material into Australia is therefore restricted by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Importation can normally only occur in the form of tissue-cultured plantlets which are then held in a quarantine nursery for at least a year.

MOVEMENT OF MATERIAL BETWEEN STATES

The diseases of most concern within the Australian banana industry are bunchy top, a virus disease,

and Panama disease which is caused by the *Fusarium* fungus. Both of these diseases can be spread by the movement of plant material.

Planting material from interstate, then, can only enter New South Wales as tissue-cultured plantlets in flasks. The plantlets must have been produced by a laboratory registered under the QBAN system which guarantees the plantlets are free of pests and diseases and have been tested for the bunchy top virus. If plantlets are being moved into the Banana Quarantine Area (see Map 1), a permit to plant and move bananas must be issued by the regulatory officer for that area.

MOVEMENT WITHIN BANANA QUARANTINE AREA

Some parts of the New South Wales Banana Quarantine Area are not infected with the bunchy top virus. The New South Wales Banana Quarantine Area (see map 1) is therefore divided into Northern and Southern zones at a line on latitude 29° 7' South.

The Southern Zone is free of bunchy top and there has been only four known occurrences of Panama disease. The Southern Zone includes Taree, Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Coffs Harbour, Ulmarra, Maclean, Nymboida, Grafton and parts of Copmanhurst Shire. Planting material from the Southern Zone can be used anywhere in New South Wales and can also be used in southern Queensland — under certain conditions and with permission from the Queensland Department of Primary Industries.

Map 1. New South Wales Banana Quarantine Area.



The Northern Zone includes the Tweed, Byron, Lismore, Ballina, Casino, Kyogle and parts of Richmond River Shire. This zone has had both bunchy top and Panama disease recorded in a number of plantations. Planting material may **not** be moved out of the Northern Zone.

Movement of bits and suckers between localities in the Northern Zone is also discouraged; due to the possibility of spreading latent bunchy top. Use of bits or suckers from plantations which are infected with bunchy top or that are within a kilometre of a bunchy top infection is also not permitted.

Growers are therefore encouraged to use planting material from a source that is known to be disease-free.

The simplest precaution against introduction of diseases or pests on planting material is to only use tissue-cultured plants.

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