



Can you imagine Maui without locally raised bananas? Banana Bunchy Top Virus has infected many banana plants on Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island in the last fifteen years and is now found in Pukalani and Makawao. The virus will stunt the growth of banana plants and eventually cause them to stop producing fruit.

Along with residential and agricultural concerns, Maui is at risk of losing the banana varieties first introduced to Hawaii by Polynesian settlers. Over 20 of these varieties of banana are found on Maui - more than any other island in Hawaii. It will take a cooperative community effort to protect these important resources.

Banana Bunchy Top Virus was first found in Hawaii in 1989. It was not found on Maui until December 2002. With everyone's help, we can still minimize the impact of Banana Bunchy Top Virus. The disease is spread by the banana aphid and can remain virtually undetected for a period of time because the initial symptoms can be subtle.

Keep an eye out for diseased plants. Some of the most obvious things to look for include: a bunched up, stunted appearance; wavy yellow leaves that look stiff and brittle; new leaves smaller than older leaves; and dark hooks and / or streaks on the underside of leafstalks and leaf blades. Please note that banana fruit from infected areas is safe to eat but **do not move** plants out of Pukalani or Makawao because they may already be infected.

If you see banana plants with any of the symptoms described above, call the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (**HDOA**) **873-3555**. HDOA will be able to determine if your plants are sick, and want to know of any suspect banana plants.

For more information contact: UH-CTAHR [www.ctahr.hawaii.edu](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu) or the Banana Action Group [www2.hawaii.edu/~banana](http://www2.hawaii.edu/~banana)