

## Choke - A Disorder of Bananas

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"Choke" is the name given to a condition in banana plants in which the fruit bunch fails to emerge, or emerges abnormally twisted. This is due to obstruction in its development.

### CAUSE

Choke is caused by some stress to the plant's development just prior to the time the bunch is due to emerge. Moisture stress is the usual cause of "choke" in warm areas such as the Top End of the Northern Territory, while unusually cool weather is usually the cause in cooler climates. There is some evidence that chemical injury may also cause "choke".

### CONTROL

It is important to remember that bananas are a crop which requires an adequate supply of water and this has to be well distributed throughout the year (at least 10 cm per month) for optimum growth. Eight minutes of gentle watering with a half inch diameter hose every day or a quarter hour every second day supplies sufficient water during periods without rain.

Avoid draining of water from swimming pools around bananas as this can cause "choke".

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