

NECK THROTTLING IN BANANA

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Neck throttling in banana with variety Kollikuttu had been reported for years in the Wet and Dry Zones of Sri Lanka. Symptoms shown are choking of the terminal leaves, heart leaf rot, excessive pigmentation of the sheaths and splitting of pseudostem.

Confirmation of Koch's postulate with organism isolated from diseased tissue was a failure.

Experiments were then carried out in the field with varieties Kollikuttu and Ambul; incidence observed were correlated with the pattern of rainfall distribution and soil moisture levels. Laboratory studies made showed a difference in water potential in both varieties; confirming the observations made in the field that the problem could be due to physiological stress.