



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT of
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

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Commissioner

PEST: Burrowing Nematode (*Radopholus similis*)

BASIC PROFILE: BN is a tiny, worm-like soil pest that attacks plant roots. Large numbers can damage roots severely, causing the plant to lodge. If the host plant produces fruit, that fruit may be smaller and less numerous. BN has a wide host range including vegetables, citrus, banana, and many other plants, especially tropical ornamental species. Damaged roots can cause leaf wilt and leaf necrosis and ultimately plant death. BN spreads via movement of infested nursery stock or soil.

LDAF ACTIVITY: We conduct routine inspections for BN at nursery grower and NSD locations (looking for host plants from the state of Florida, Hawaii or Puerto Rico which are restricted entry into Louisiana; and checking for proper certification paperwork). Paperwork checks for proper certification are the main regulatory tool available. When non-certified plants are found, stop sales are issued and material is destroyed or may be returned to origin. We also conduct annual surveys, collecting of soil samples at nursery grower and NSD locations statewide, and from commercial row crop fields.

