



When the bark is peeled off, black/brown or violet stripes are seen on the wood.



An affected and dried up coffee plant remains firmly rooted in the ground.

Coffee Wilt Disease

Prepared for Primary Schools

How does the disease spread?

- By wind and rain water/run-off.
- Movement of infected stems from farm to other areas as firewood.
- Movement of infected seedlings and soil.
- Use of tools (pruning saws, pangas, hoes) contaminated with the fungus.

How can we control Coffee Wilt Disease?

- Up-root and burn all infected plants.
 - Do not move infected stems and soil around the farm or to other farms.
 - Clean tools by heating the metal parts in flames or fire.
 - Get seedlings for planting from nurseries that practice good hygiene.
- Contact your local agriculture staff for advice when you see the signs shown earlier.**

Acknowledgement

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For further information contact:

Director of Research

Coffee Research Institute (CORI), Kituza

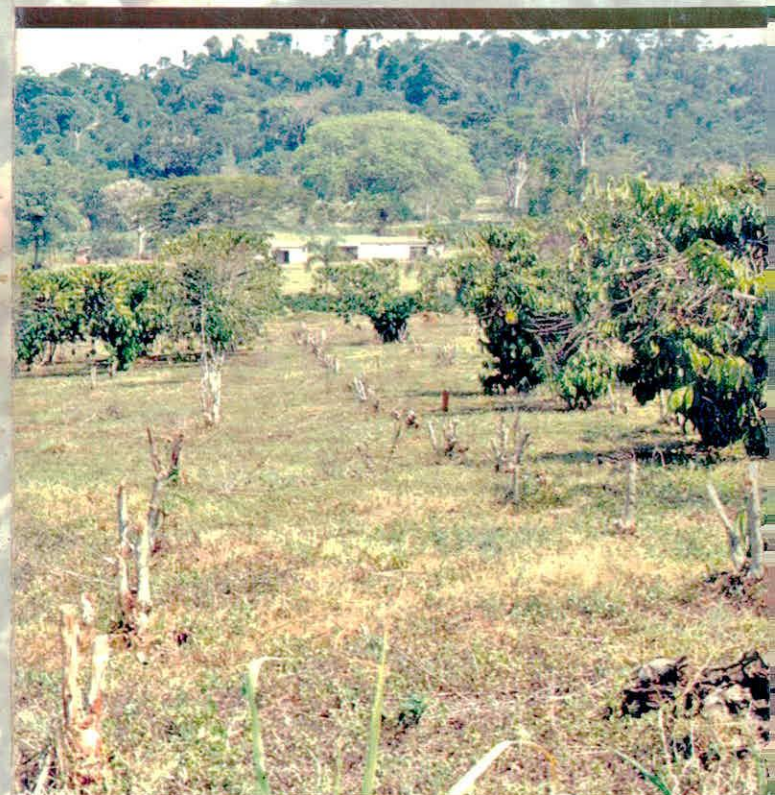
P.O. Box 185, MUKONO-Uganda

Tel: 039 700725, E-mail: cori@africaonline.co.ug

Infected plants do not recover even after pruning. When pruned or stumped, any suckers that may sprout later will wilt and dry up.



At advanced stages, cracks often occur around the stems of affected plants.



Coffee in Uganda

Are your parents farmers? May be coffee is one of the crops your parents grow.

Why do they grow coffee?

Uganda has very little mineral deposits and does not have oil/petroleum to provide money for development. So it has to depend on agriculture. Coffee is a very important crop for Uganda. Farmers get money from coffee to pay school fees for their children, build houses, get medical treatment, buy food and other things. The country gains foreign exchange to buy goods from outside like medicines, vehicles and many more. Many people also get jobs by growing, processing, transporting and exporting coffee. Two types of coffee are grown in Uganda.

Types of coffee

Robusta coffee is grown in low lands, mostly around Lake Victoria and it makes up most of Uganda's coffee export (85-90%). Robusta coffee has been grown in Uganda for more than 100 years, with no major problems.



Robusta coffee

Arabica coffee is grown in the highlands in Eastern and Western Uganda and makes up 10-15% of total export.



Arabica coffee

What is Coffee Wilt Disease (CWD)?

Since 1993, robusta coffee has been attacked by a disease, which causes the tree to wilt and die. A fungus causes the disease by preventing transport of water in the plant.

The following pictures show you how robusta coffee trees with the wilt disease look like

The affected coffee tree may start by yellowing and/or curling of leaves, wilting and rapid leaf fall.



The tips of the main stem dry up. This is known as die-bark. Die-bark spreads down all primary branches, eventually killing the stem/tree.



On a coffee plant, with more than one stem, stems die one by one until all the stems dry up completely.

Coffee berries on the affected tree ripen pre-maturely and dry up, but remain attached to the bearing branches. These are the primary branches.

