

CTAHR researchers think they may see light at the end of the tunnel for Hawai'i's banana industry.

Peeling Back a Disease Threat



The characteristic "bunchy top" of a banana plant infected with the world's most serious banana disease.



Abundant, healthy bananas can be a valuable export for Hawai'i.

Commodity Fact

The 1997 farmgate value for island bananas was \$5.2 million.

After six years of hard, careful work, CTAHR researchers think they may see light at the end of the tunnel for Hawai'i's banana industry. Although much remains to be done, the effort to find—or create—banana varieties resistant to one of Hawai'i's (and the world's) most serious banana diseases, banana bunchy top virus, may finally be paying off. Successful laboratory work must be confirmed by field trials to be sure the resistant varieties will grow and bear fruit that tastes good. Nevertheless, as a result of the dedicated work of CTAHR's plant pathologists, Hawai'i banana farmers, whose future has been in doubt, can look to tomorrow with more confidence.



Banana plantations such as this one have a better chance of survival thanks to CTAHR research.