

Bogia coconut syndrome (BCS)

A new threat to the Torres Strait Islands



A disease of coconut trees in North West PNG

Caused by unusual bacteria (called phytoplasmas)

What to look for?

Early on, all the coconuts can drop, whether they are ripe or not
Leaves turn brown and hang down the stem, then later fall
Then the growing point rots out
Eventually, only the crownless stem remains, like a telegraph pole

Newly opened flowering shoots can rot and die



How does it spread?

It spreads from palm to palm with insects
It spreads long distances with coconut seedlings, -maybe also in fresh coconuts
If you see anything like this in the coconut palms on your island, contact your local Biosecurity Officer

