

Wart eye

Wart-eye mite

Unidentified mites

Distribution

Wart eye can be a problem in the Mossman, Innisfail and southern Babinda areas and sometimes at Meringa and Mackay.

Damage

The germinating eye, instead of growing into a pointed shoot, swells and becomes broad and flat. Its surface becomes rough and looks like a wart (photo 1). Wart eye is caused by mites.

Description

The mite is very small and not likely to be seen.

Biology

Unknown.

Management

Chemicals added to the fungicidal dip or sprayed over the setts and soil during planting do **not** work on this pest. Good quality planting material should be used to offset the failure due to wart eye. Some cane varieties are damaged more than others.



Photo 1: Germinating eye showing wart-eye symptoms.

