

As result, the fungus has spread to Australia, the Middle East and Mozambique and Latin America, heavily dependent on its monoculture Cavendish crops, could easily be next. But, in , its exports had dropped by per cent thanks to combination of another strain of the fungus, TR , and bad weather. In the , Central American commercial banana growers were facing the death of their most lucrative product, the Gros Michel banana, known as Big Mike. In , South East Asia, another major banana producer, exported four million tons of Cavendish bananas. In an attempt to escape the fungus, farmers abandoned infected fields, flooded them and then replanted crops somewhere else, often cutting down rainforest to do so. With its easily transported, thick skinned and sweet tasting fruit, the Gros Michel banana plant dominated the plantations of Central America. So, instead, they searched for variety of banana that the fungus didn affect. They found the Cavendish, as it was called, in the greenhouse of British duke.