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Management of Pests and Disease of Oil Palm Planted on Tropical Peat*

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Upon drainage of tropical peat for planting oil palms, a number of pests have adapted themselves to the resultant woody and moist environment. The main pests of oil palms found on tropical peat are similar to those found on mineral soils, namely; rats, leaf-eating caterpillars, rhinoceros beetles, termites and bunch moths. The Ganoderma Basal Stem Rot is the key disease on peat soils. This paper describes cost-effective and environment-friendly management of these major pests and disease for sustainable cultivation of oil palm on tropical peat. Future research areas are suggested.

Keywords: *Tropical peat, oil palm, pests, disease, management.*