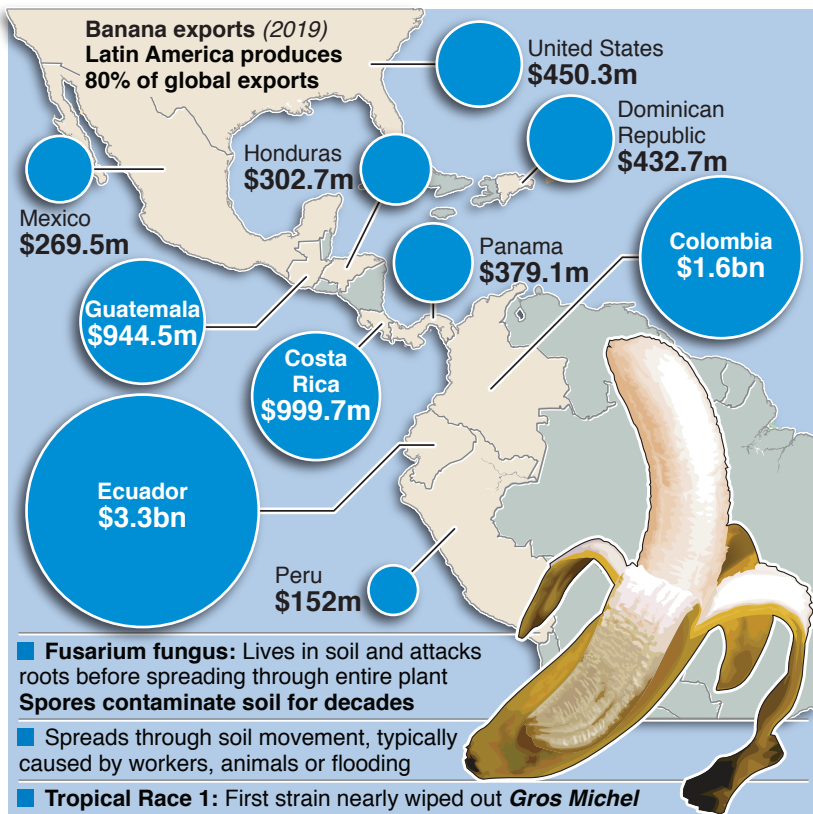


# Banana industry faces disease threat

The fungal disease *fusarium wilt* is ravaging the \$25 billion banana industry. A strain known as Tropical Race 4 is now spreading among the banana heartlands of Latin America



**Tropical Race 1:** First strain nearly wiped out **Gros Michel** banana in 1950s – **Cavendish** variety found to be resistant to it

**Tropical Race 4:** New strain, first detected in Taiwan in 1990  
**Kills Cavendish** – main type grown for international market