Musa spp.

(Banana)

Banana is short lived herbaceous plants with large rhizomes. Banana recognized by its large, fleshy, upright stalks topped with soft, smooth, arching leaves. Ranging from 1 m for the dwarf species to over 5-6 m for the largest types, Banana "trees" are guaranteed to lend a tropical flavor to any landscape setting. The broad, tender leaves are easily torn by winds and plants should be located in a sheltered area to prevent this. The unusual reddish-purple flowers are followed by clusters of upwardly-pointing green fruit, maturing to a beautiful yellow. After the fruit appears the plant dies back. If we cut the trunk back until the ground new growth will appear. Growing best on fertile, moist soil, Bananas will thrive in full sun or partial shade and should be protected from both wind and cold. Plants respond well to regular fertilization. Many different species of Banana are available. Some ornamental types are grown for foliage or flowers. The best usages for Banana as a specimens or container plant. 'Cavendish' is the best edible variety.



Landscape Information

French Name: banana

Pronounciation: MEW-suh species

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: Southern Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia **Heat Zones:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Specimen, Container, Edible, Wildlife

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Irregular

Canopy Density: Open
Canopy Texture: Coarse
Height at Maturity: 3 to 5 m
Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 1 to 2 Years

Plant Image

Musa spp.

(Banana)



Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Spiral
Leaf Venation: Pinnate
Leaf Persistance: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Blade: 50 - 80
Leaf Shape: Oblong
Leaf Margins: Undulate
Leaf Textures: Smooth
Leaf Scent: No Fragance
Color(growing season): Green
Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True Flower Size Range: Over 20

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragance Flower Color: Orange, Purple

Seasons: Spring

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally

resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy, Smooth

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: True Fruit Size Range: 10 - 20 Fruit Colors: Yellow

Seasons: Spring

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(Banana)



Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No Heat Tolerant: Yes Drought Tolerant: No Salt Tolerance: Poor

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral, Alkaline

Water Requirements: High Light Requirements: Full

Management

Invasive Potential: No

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes **Pruning Requirement:** No pruning at all

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: No Life Span: Less than 25

Edible Parts: Fruit

Pests: Nematodes, Scales **Plant Propagations:** Stolons

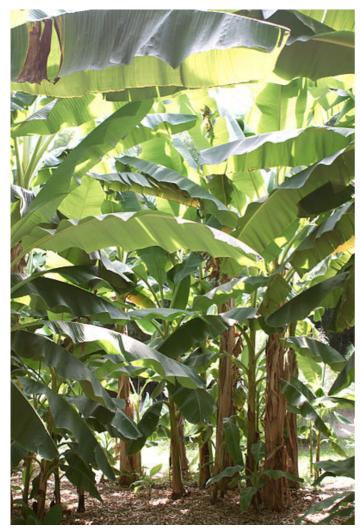
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