

# BANANAS

Bananas require rich soil and full sun to partial shade. They are fast growing and require ample and plenty of fertilizer. Attractive long, broad leaves lend a tropical effect to any garden. Protect from strong winds. Most varieties can be tender to frost, but are root hardy. The following is a list of varieties and descriptions that are commonly available.

Ensete ventricosum	Abyssinian Banana	Palm-like ornamental perennial. Rising from the solitary psuedotrunk, are large, paddle-shaped, 10-15' long bright green leaves with a red midrib. Protect from strong winds. To 20' tall, 15' spread. Ornamental, non-fruiting.
Ensete ventricosum 'Maurelii'	Red-leaved Banana	Palm-like plant with huge broad foliage in compact rosettes atop tall stems. Wine coloring to the leaves. Popular for creating tropical effect. Fast growing 10 to 12' long leaves. 12-15' trunk. Protect from wind. Ornamental, non-fruiting.
Musa acuminata 'Enano Gigante'	Dwarf Giant Banana	Perennial with large dark green leaves with red markings on juvenile foliage. Mature leaves are solid green. Will produce richer tasting and creamier fruit than the market variety. Dwarf height limits wind damage. Evergreen. Fast-growing to 6-8' tall and wide.
Musa acuminata 'Dwarf Cavendish'	Dwarf Cavendish	Height 6-8' tall. Large heavy flower clusters with reddish to dark purple bracts, yellow flowers. Can bear 6" bananas in warm S. California climates.
Musa acuminata zebrina	Blood Banana	Spectacular blue-green striped with red. Large, heavy clusters of yellow flowers with purple-red bracts. Can bear small, sweet bananas. Fast grower 6-8' tall and wide
Musa velutina	Pink Fruiting Banana	Produces small (3 1/2") velvety ornamental bananas at a young age. Grows 3-5' tall and 3' wide.
Musa 'Cardaba'		Height 12-16'. One of the hardiest and most vigorous. Quickly forms a large stand for a tropical effect, fruit is great fresh but is primarily a cooking banana.
Musa 'Goldfinger'		Height to 12'. Hardy to 24 degrees. Can bear 12-18 months after planting. Vigorous, tall plant bears large hands of fruit that are similar in size and flavor to supermarket fruit.
Musa 'Ice Cream'		Height to 16'. Bluish-green coloration on the undersides of leaves. Fruit is silvery-blue before ripening then turns a pale yellow. Delicious banana that can be eaten fresh or cooked.
Musa 'Lady Finger'		Height to 25'. A rapid growing, slender, cold-hardy plant. Bears medium bunches of delicious, small fruit. Also known as Brazilian. Hardy to 28 degrees.
Musa 'Manzano'		One of the fastest producers of fruit and foliage. Develops small bunches of 3-4" fruit full of flavor, but must be allowed to fully ripen
Musa 'Mysore'		Very attractive green leaves, brown patchy colored trunk. Thin-skinned fruit. This banana is noted for being more wind resistant. Height to 18'.
Musa 'Rajapuri'		Height 7-8' with a stout base. Noted to be more wind resistant and relatively cold hardy. This banana is from India and produces medium-sized sweet fruit.
Musella lasiocarpa	Yellow Flowering Banana	Long lasting yellow inflorescence on a 4-5' plant. Non fruiting, hardy to 20 degrees.