

## **Hardy Bananas!** We have chosen the hardiest varieties that will thrive in most American gardens. Zones 6-11 (Some say even to zone 5 with proper protection)

An absolute must for the tropical look! In colder zones wrapping and mulching can allow gardeners to enjoy the fabulous foliage of the Banana. Many northerners I've spoken to grow them in containers which make 'impact' houseplants in the winter.

### **Banana Plants - Planting and Care instructions**

If planting in a container, be sure it has good large drain holes. Start with a well draining soil and add 20% perlite to assure that you have good draining soil. Don't use a heavy potting soil or just your native soil. If planting in your garden, amend your native soil with light, well draining media. Be sure the roots are well covered when planting.

Full sun is optimum but they will grow in partial shade, this is mostly true for Musa basjoo. For most others, full sun seems to be best. Beware of planting in windy sites as the thin leaves are easily torn. Although the island look does have something to be said for it.

Being heavy feeders bananas appreciate plenty of fertilizer with a high nitrogen level. Stop the high nitrogen about a month before you expect your first major freeze and then fertilize with 0-10-10. Enough cannot be said about the importance of lots of nitrogen. If you want large banana plants pay attention to two things, fertilizer and plenty of water. Water when the surface of the soil feels dry. This is not a plant you can water once a week. Although they will not survive in standing water, it is nearly impossible to over water them. Do not allow the soil to dry out in the growing season.

Bananas prefer high humidity, 50% or higher as hot, dry air can destroy the leaves.

With good growing conditions, expect a new leaf every 5 days to a week. It is possible to have a 10 foot banana tree in just a couple years.

We may cut all the leaves from the trunk prior to shipping.