

Banana Plant Sale



When: Starting June 5th, until they're gone!

Varieties for Sale: Double Dwarf Cavendish and Grand Naine

Price: \$12.00 for #3 gallon pot size



Care Instruction:

Bananas are an easy to grow tropical fruiting herbaceous plant. They do well planted in sheltered locations in full sun, however the dwarf Cavendish plants like slightly shadier location (55% shade) than normal bananas. They can also grow in large containers and possibly even indoors in well lit rooms. Bananas do best in temperatures from 78-82°F and for fruiting from 84-86°F, freezing of leaves occurs at 32°F and die back to the ground at 28°F. They like a fertile soil, high in organic matter that is well drained with a pH of 5.5-7.0. The soil should be moist but not soaked; bananas are not tolerant of flooding or salt. You can expect fruit one to two years after planting, depending on growing conditions.

Propagation is done mainly by suckers. If the sucker has roots they can be dug up and repotted. June is the ideal time to plant bananas because of the onset of rain, to start dig the hole about double the size of the existing pot size and add composted organic matter or a mixture of peat and sand. Water thoroughly and add a thick layer of mulch to help keep out weeds.

Hardiness: zones 9-11

Spacing: 6ft apart for dwarf varieties, 8-12ft. for standard.

Mature Plant Size: 4ft in container, 5ft or more in ground.

Fertilizers: worm castings improve soil fertility. Bananas require high amounts of potassium (K). “Young plants should be started with 1/2 lb (0.23 kg) of a 6-2-12 or similar formula (3-1-6 ratio) with 2-3% magnesium applied every 2 months, and increasing gradually to 5.0 lb to 6.0 lb (2.3-2.7 kg) at flowering and fruiting time, 10 to 18 months later.” (UF IFAS). A spray containing manganese and zinc is recommended annually.

Pest and Disease Control: black sigatoka- small red/brown spots on underside of leaves that turn into dark spots on the top of leaves. Controls of black sigatoka are to remove infested leaves, improve air circulation or spray fungicides.

For more information go to <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MG040>

