

# COLD HARDY BANANA PLANTS AT-A-GLANCE

## ABOUT

- Grown as a perennial
- Hardy in zones 9-11 but can be winterized for zones 5-8
- Can be grown as container plants
- Grow from rhizomes
- Does produce edible fruit but not very palatable

## STATS

- Growth varies but can be between 6 to 8 feet
- *Musa basjoo* is a popular variety and is one of most best cold hardy
- Has large, smooth waxy leaves and a tropical feel
- Can be evergreens down to 25° F
- Fruit is harder, dryer, and has less sugar and more starch than traditional bananas; Cooking can help some
- Fruit also full of seeds

## REQUIREMENTS

- Growing zones 5-11
- Require 6-8 hours full sun
- Soil pH around 5.5-6.5
- Well-draining soil

## PLANTING IN CONTAINERS

- Use well-draining potting soil that is very fertile
- Pick a large container with drainage hole
- Keep container in full sun location and away from drafts
- Keep near south or east facing windows



## PLANTING IN GROUND

- Plant outdoors in the spring
- Choose location with well-draining, fertile soil; Amend with compost if needed

## MAINTENANCE

- Water deeply and keep soil moist; Don't allow to dry out
- Use a nitrogen-based fertilizer
- In zones 5-8, cut back to 1-2' tall in fall; Cover with burlap bag and mulch heavily
- Alternatively, move container plants indoors

## ISSUES

- Watch for root rot
- Leaves can get damaged with high winds; Protect as needed



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keeping the fun in gardening by keeping it simple!