PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Musa mannii* H. Wendl. ex Baker

**GENUS** *Musa* **FAMILY** Musaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Indian dwarf banana

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit

## DESCRIPTION

A small banana. It grows 1.5 m tall. The false stem is slender. It has purple black spots. The leaves are oblong and 60-80 cm long by 18-20 cm wide. The leaves are green but the midrib is red. The leaf stem is 20-25 cm long. The flowering shoot is erect at first and then droops. The flowering stem is 15-18 cm long and 2 cm across. It is red with white down. The bracts are red. Fruit are 5-6 cm long. They are light green to yellow when ripe. The ripe fruit can be eaten. The seeds are 5-6 mm long. There are 20-30 seeds in each fruit. It produces many suckers.

## HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It cannot tolerate frost. It needs a well drained rich soil. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens hothouse. It suits hardiness zones 10-11.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seeds. It is best to soak the seeds for 3 days.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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**ONLINE FACT SHEET** https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/4a9104a9-ca2c-4bf2-bc7c-3c44e0e189aa