PLANT FACT SHEET

Musa acuminata Colla

GENUS *Musa* **FAMILY** Musaceae

COMMON NAMES Banana

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Flowers, Flower stalk, Stem, Shoots

The seedless fruit are regularly eaten raw or cooked.
The seeded fruit are occasionally eaten.
The shoots and flowers are cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

The banana false stems usually have black marks on them. The canal of the leaf stalk is like an open drain. There are dry flaps where the leaf stalk joins the false stem. The leaves are paddle shaped. These are diploid bananas. They can be seeded or seedless. The flowers hang down. They are pear shaped and yellow, white or cream. The fruit are yellow.
This is the small diploid variety.
Many bananas are hybrids between acuminata and balbisiana. See Musa x paradisiaca.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 30-40 Musa species. Some say 300 Musa sp and 20 species cultivated commercially.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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