PLANT FACT SHEET

Musa troglodytarum L.

GENUS *Musa* **FAMILY** Musaceae

COMMON NAMES Fe'i banana, Mountain plantain, Red-flowering banana, Scarlet banana

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten cooked. They are starchy.
Caution: The yellow flesh turns the urine red.

DESCRIPTION

A large herb. It forms clumps. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows 4-5 m tall. It has a stout false stem. This often has a purple tinge. It secretes blood red sap. The leaves are long and dark green. The flower is erect. It bears thick blunt fleshy fruit. These may have a few or no seeds. The fruit are orange to orange-red when ripe. The fruit are 10-20 cm long. There are 5-30 fruit in a cluster.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It suits the hot, wet tropical lowlands. It grows in inland mountain regions in Fiji. It grows in rich, well-drained soils in full sun. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown by division using suckers. Plants can be grown by dividing the clump.

NOTES

There are about 30 Musa species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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