

# Banana

Condition of soil	A well drained deep friable and fertile soil with neutral soil reaction
Propagation	The banana is commonly propagated by suckers and swords suckers with narrow leaves are preferred over broad leaved water suckers. Rhizome or rhizome bit of 1 kg. Weight can also be used for propagation.
Spacing and planting	Spacing of 1.8 m X 1.8 m for dwarf Cavendish and 2.1 m. for Robusta and other tall varieties is recommended.
Fertilizer application	Fertilizers should be applied before planting. For dwarf Cavendish fertilizer dose of 180 gm $p_2O_5$ and 200 gm $K_2O$ in four split doses at an interval of two months and for Robusta and other tall varieties 100 gm N, 125 gm. $p_2O_5$ and 225 gm $K_2O$ /plant/year should be applied.
Varieties	<i>Dwarf Cavendish, Poovan, Robusta, Cheena, Chakerkeli or Rajabale</i>
Preparation of land	For planting banana pits of 45 cm <sup>3</sup> deep are dug and suckers are planted in such a way so that the rhizome is placed 25 to 30 cm. below the surface of the soil.
Desuckering	Pruning is the removal of unwanted or superfluous suckers. It is desirable to allow one sucker at the time of inflorescence emergence.
Fertiliser	Fertilizers should be applied before planting. For dwarf Cavendish fertilizer dose of 180 gm $p_2O_5$ and 200 gm $K_2O$ in four split doses at an interval of two months and for Robusta and other tall varieties 100 gm N, 125 gm. $p_2O_5$ and 225 gm $K_2O$ /plant/year should be applied.
Disease and its control	<p><i>Sigatoka Leaf Spot</i> : Spray of Dithane M-45 (0.25%) and mineral oil 1% gives best control of sigatoka leaf spot.</p> <p><i>Anthrachnose</i> : For control of anthrachose spray Dithane Z-78 (0.2%), Benomyl (0.1) or Dithane M-45 (0.30%)</p> <p><i>Bunchy Top</i> : This disease is caused by a virus transmitted by an aphid.</p> <p><b>Control</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One day before roguing the infected plant spray kerosene oil till it reaches the Pseudostem to kill the aphid.</li> <li>Spray the neighbouring banana plants up to a distance of 50' with Rogor (0.05%) or Metasystox (0.05%) to kill aphid and avoid spread of disease.</li> <li>(a) Burn and destroy the pseudostem and corn or burry them into a pit.</li> </ol>

Insect & Pests	<i>Rhizome weevil</i> :- Application of phorate granules 5 gm/plant has been found to be the best for effective control of this insect.
harvesting	The bunches can be harvested when the sharp angularities on the fingers start disappearing.
Yield (q /ha)	The yield of banana depends upon factors such as variety, plant density, soil fertility etc. Tall varieties such as Champa yields 15 to 25 tonnes per hectare, whereas Dwarf Cavendish produces 25-50 tonnes of fruit/hectare. In case of Robusta it yield upto 50-65 tonns/hectare