

Dwarf Banana, *Dwarf Cavendish*

Dwarf Bananas grow to a height of just 2 or 3 metres, and originate from southeast Asia and northern Australia. They require abundant water and a warm location protected from wind. Frost will kill the leaves including the ‘stem’, which is made up of strong petioles. Like many other herbaceous plants, it instantly recovers from the corm after freezing, storm-breaking or severe pruning. It tolerates full sun or partial shade, but demands nutrient-rich soil with a high percentage of compost. Dwarf Bananas tolerate heat if abundant water is at hand without being stagnant. The plants are propagated by offsets which are best separated at the end of summer. If temperatures drop below 12°C, the growth stagnates without any sign of dormancy, except for the interrupted thirst. Above this temperature, the Banana Plant is one of the heaviest feeders grown in Arriyadh, where it is often seen in protected areas on farms. Liquid fertiliser applied every fortnight supports it best. However, a lesser outlay is the application of slow-release granules at the beginning of spring, summer and autumn. In winter, plants do best without supplemental watering and must not be fertilised. Shoots usually flower during their second year in hanging clusters with pale-yellow florets. They need another 6 months to ripen. Dwarf Bananas give an immediate feeling of an exotic, humid-tropical climate. They should be grown in locations sheltered from the wind, adjacent to a pond or as an accent plant in a courtyard.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fast growing
Humidity	: very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: division
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: vulnerable
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: high
Salinity/ppm	: low (1000 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: shrub, perennial
Height	: 2 m-7 m
Spread	: 1.5 m-4 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow
Period	: January - December

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: berry
Fruit size	: 15 cm - 20 cm
Toxicity	: produced for food, edible, fruit