GROWING BANANAS THE RIGHT WAY

JULY 2015



Clear the site of bushes and trees before you start preparing the land.



Bananas require large planting holes - they must be at least 3 ft (90 cm) long x 3 ft (90 cm) wide, and 2ft (60 cm) deep.



☑ Remove the soil from the sucker and cut off the roots. Cut off the bottom of the corm so that it is flat. Cut off the top as well.

The correct place to make this cut is where the pink part of the stem ends and the black part begin. The cut must be slanted (or diagonal) so that the sap drips off and doesn't cause rotting.



☒ Don't worry about the absence of roots on a pared corm - once it is planted, new roots will emerge.



When planting, the top of the corm (sucker) should be 1 inch below the surface of the soil.



Use fertilizers to ensure supply of nutrients to the bananas. Spread the fertilizers like a blanket.



Remove dead or dying leaves at regular intervals. Never cut or detrash functional leaves since they are needed for photosynthesis.



Water trenches channel water to the plants and help to control soil erosion. The trench should at least be about 2 ft wide and 1 ft deep.



Mulch the plantation to retain moisture in the soil. The deeper the mulch, the better the soil moisture retention.



Restrict the number of suckers around each plant to 3 (mother, daughter and grand daughter) to limit competition for nutrients.



Weeds compete with the bananas for water and nutrients, and so should be removed. **Do NOT use a hoe to weed** because damages the banana roots.



Remove the male bud to ensure that all nutrients go to the female part, which develops into the fruit.

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