

Which banana plant should I grow?

Firstly, I should make you aware that you are unlikely to ever produce your own bananas to eat. Why? Our climate isn't suitable for most of the edible varieties to be grown outside (even with global warming), and unless you have a greenhouse the size of the Eden Project, you should just treat banana plants as ornamental plants.

So now I've burst your bubble (sorry), in order to find the right variety for you, you should consider the following points:

- **WHERE WILL THE PLANT BE GROWN?**

Will it be grown outdoors or indoors all year round, or a mix of both? Will you be keeping it in a pot or planting it in the ground?

- **WHAT LEVEL OF CARE CAN YOU OFFER IT DURING THE COLDER MONTHS?**

Different varieties have different levels of cold-hardiness, from fully hardy to complete wimps that need to be kept indoors over winter. Some varieties can remain outdoors if you are able to provide them with some insulation, but you should be realistic about what space / heat / care you can offer the plant.

- **IS THERE A MAXIMUM SIZE OR HEIGHT THAT YOU CAN ACCOMMODATE IN YOUR CHOSEN GROWING LOCATION?**

This is especially relevant if you're planning on growing the plant in a covered area or moving it into a greenhouse or conservatory. Growing the plants in pots can limit their potential size, but you should be realistic in your choices.

THERE IS AN INFORMATION CARD FOR EACH OF THE VARIETIES THAT WE GROW. IT WILL TELL YOU THE SIZE AND CARE REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT VARIETY TO HELP YOU FIND THE RIGHT PLANT FOR YOU.