

Musa paradisiaca

Musa paradisiaca is a hybrid species in the genus *Musa*, which includes banana and plantain plants. *Musa* × *paradisiaca* is a hybrid of *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*. It is often referred to as plantain or cooking banana in different parts of the world.



Name of *Musa paradisiaca* in Indian languages:

1. Hindi: Kela
2. Tamil: Vazhaippazham
3. Telugu: Arati Pandu
4. Malayalam: Pazham
5. Kannada: Balehannu
6. Marathi: Kela
7. Bengali: Kola

TAXONOMY:

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Zingiberales

Family: Musaceae

Genus: *Musa*

Species: *Musa* × *paradisiaca*



USES:

1. Culinary Uses:

- Ripe Fruit: Eaten fresh or used in desserts, smoothies, and baking.
- Unripe Fruit: Used in cooking, particularly in savory dishes. Common in Indian cuisine, it is used in curries, fries, and chips.
- Banana Flour: Made from dried, unripe bananas, used as a gluten free flour substitute.

2. Traditional Medicine:

- Digestive Aid: Ripe bananas are used to soothe the digestive tract.
- Wound Healing: The sap from the banana plant is sometimes used in traditional medicine for treating wounds.

3. Cultural Uses:

- Rituals and Festivals: Banana leaves and fruits are often used in religious rituals and festivals in India.
- Decoration: Leaves are used for serving food and as decorative elements in various ceremonies.

Characteristics Feature

- Growth: *Musa × paradisiaca* is a large, herbaceous plant that can reach heights of up to 2025 Feet.
 - Leaves: The plant has large, broad leaves that can grow up to 9 feet long and 2 feet wide. They are bright green and tear easily in the wind.
 - Pseudo stem: The plant has a pseudo stem made up of tightly packed leaf bases, which give it the appearance of a trunk.
 - Inflorescence: The flowering stem emerges from the centre of the pseudo stem, producing a large inflorescence known as a banana heart.
 - Fruits: The plant produces bunches of bananas or plantains, which are elongated and slightly curved. The fruits develop from the female flowers and mature into the recognizable banana clusters.
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