

Musa acuminata Care Sheet



Dwarf Cavendish Banana

Light

- Full sun (6–8 hours daily) for optimal growth and fruiting. Place outdoors in summer or near a bright south-facing window indoors year-round. Supplement with a grow light if needed.

Water

- Keep soil consistently moist but not soggy—water when the top inch dries out. Reduce to every 2–3 weeks in winter when growth slows indoors.

Soil

- Rich, well-draining potting mix with organic matter (e.g., compost or peat). Slightly acidic to neutral pH (5.8–7.0) is ideal.

Temperature

- Thrives at 75–95°F; growth slows below 60°F. Not frost-tolerant—bring indoors before temperatures drop below 50°F.

Care in Zones 5 & 6

- **Spring/Summer:** After the last frost (late May–early June), place outdoors in full sun for vigorous growth. Start in a 4-inch pot, then transplant to a 10–15 gallon container as it matures. Fertilize monthly with balanced 10-10-10 or high-potassium fertilizer (e.g., 15-5-30) for fruit potential.
- **Fall Prep:** Before first frost (late September–October), move potted plants indoors.
- **Winter Indoors:** Overwinter in a bright, cool spot (50–60°F, e.g., near a window, in a garage with light, or under a grow light). Water sparingly (every 2–4 weeks) to keep roots alive but dormant. Avoid drafty or dark areas. Return outdoors after the last frost in spring.
- **Fruiting:** Possible indoors with consistent warmth (75°F+), 12–14 hours of light daily, and a long growing season (9–15 months). Outdoors in Zones 5–6, the season is too short for reliable fruit.

Tips

- Trim yellowing leaves (sign of overwatering or cold stress).
- Propagate pups (offsets) in spring for more plants.
- Expect 3–6 feet height in a season with proper care.

Note: *Musa acuminata* requires indoor overwintering in Zones 5–6 to survive cold winters.