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WHEN WILL MY BANANAS BE READY FOR HARVEST?

Banana plants have grown and flowered well in recent months and there are plenty of gardeners anxiously watching their bunches of fruit keen to know when they can harvest.

Banana rules.

While you no longer need a permit to grow bananas, it is still illegal to propagate from your own banana plants and sell them or share them with others. This is designed to prevent the potential spread of Panama disease, leaf spot, bunchy top, yellow sigatoka and



It's important to choose a variety that grows to a manageable height.

other diseases that could jeopardize the commercial banana industry in Qld. The banana plants available from your local nursery are grown from tissue culture to ensure that they are free from disease.

The period from flowering to fruit ripening depends on three main factors.



Dwarf Ducasse banana. This banana grows to approximately 2.5m.

1 - Variety

Sucrier 2 months (small desert banana)
Sugar bananas 4.5 months
Cavendish/Williams 4.5 months
Ducasse and Dwarf Ducasse 4.5 months
Red Dacca 4.5 months
Lady Finger 5.5 months (now you know why they are often the most expensive)

Look for signs that your fruit are losing their square edges; becoming more rounded and changing colour to a lighter green. Harvest individual hands progressively from the top of the bunch or cut the whole bunch and hang it in a protected area such as under a verandah or in the garage to allow it to ripen.

2 - Climate

The warmer the climate the faster plants grow and the more quickly the flower and fruit.

The colder the climate the slower the growth and therefore the longer it takes for your banana to flower. Flowering occurs when the stem has produced 37-46 leaves.



Banana flowers of modern varieties are edible but some are more palatable than others.

3 - Nutrition

Each banana clump should only have three stems – one mature stem; one immature stem and one emerging sucker. Bananas love plenty of compost; decomposed animal manure and all the nutrition you can give them. Nutrition, variety and maturity at harvest influence the flavour of the fruit.



You may need a prop pole to support a leaning banana.