Homestead Gardens Plant Finder

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Truly Tiny Banana

Musa 'Truly Tiny'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 8b

Description:

An ornamental banana that is one of the smallest in the world, producing edible yellow fruit; best suited to warm temperate climates and can take light freezes; a nice garden accent or container plant

Ornamental Features

Truly Tiny Banana is a wonderfully ornamental plant with characteristically tropical foliage and delicious edible fruit. Its attractive enormous glossy oval leaves remain green in color with showy dark red variegation throughout the season. The fruits are showy yellow bananas carried in abundance in late winter.

This plant is primarily grown as an ornamental, but it's also valued for its edible qualities. The small sweet bananas are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Eating When Cooked/Prepared
- Baking

Landscape Attributes

Truly Tiny Banana is an herbaceous tropical perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.



Truly Tiny Banana
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Truly Tiny Banana foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should never be pruned except to remove any dieback, as it tends not to take pruning well. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Truly Tiny Banana is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Truly Tiny Banana will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

Bananas are curious plants in a botanical sense. Strictly speaking they are perennials, with individual shoots rising up from underground rhizomes and maturing in one to two years, then ultimately dying after producing fruit, to be replaced by new shoots from the base. However, given their ultimate size and coarseness they almost behave as small trees in the landscape. This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Truly Tiny Banana is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.