

Larry The Banana Man

HOW TO PLANT YOUR BANANA TREE

Banana plants are in the herb family, they never develop woody trunks like trees. The trunks, are known as pseudo stems. They grow larger each year, up to 20 feet tall and 10 inches in diameter after several years.

Transplanting your cold hardy banana plant is most successful in the spring, summer and early fall when it is most active in growth. In winter the plants will go dormant and is not normally suitable for planting. Your banana tree should be planted so as to receive as much direct summer sun light each day as possible.

IMPORTANT: Before planting tree it is best to remove all but the top **three leaves** including the center leaf. **Keep just the three top leaves on the tree to allow roots to start growing.**

PLANTING: Dig a hole approximately 18 inches wide and 18 inches deep in well drained soil. (Not soggy)

1. Add approximately 3 inches of Potting soil to bottom of hole.
2. Place banana plant in hole.
3. **Mix the following three items together thoroughly BEFORE filling in the hole around the tree. Equal parts** of 1. Potting soil, 2. Native soil from hole you dug and 3. Black Cow manure. Caution, too much manure when planting will burn the plant causing it to turn yellow and possibly die. **Do not over fertilize when planting!**
4. **IMPORTANT:** Tamp thoroughly on soil to remove trapped air.
5. Water the area thoroughly. Keep the soil damp but not soggy. This will help remove any residual air pockets and provide the roots with the needed moisture to begin growing again. **Keep the soil moist at all times for at least a month to allow adequate root growth.**

6. Spread a 3-inch layer of mulch approximately 24 inches around the banana plant covering the diameter of the planting hole and beyond . Mulch helps maintain moisture and even soil temperatures in the heat of the Georgia summers.

IMPORTANT: Before planting tree is best to remove all but three top leaves from your plant including the center leaf.

In **very hot weather** banana trees may not be able to support all of the leaves when first planted. If leaves start to wither remove all leaves except the center one to give the plant time for the roots to start growing. The plant will then begin to grow and produce new leaves.

Maintaining just three leaves will cause your plant to grow more rapidly. When the desired height is achieved allow plant to keep all lush green leaves. Remove aging or damages leaves at any time.

Water tree every few days for two to three weeks then at least twice each week during growing season.

FOR MAXIMUM GROWTH AND BEAUTY: During the growing season pull back mulch from around the plant and fertilize the plant **EACH MONTH** with a few ounces of 10-10-10 fertilizer and a few cups of Black Cow manure mixed in with the top few inches of soil surrounding the plant. Replace the mulch after mixing in nutrients (fertilizer).

Keep soil damp but not soaked.

After FIRST frost remove all withered leaves from tree. Cut tree off just below where leaves start growing from stalk.