

# The Banana Plant

## *Ensete ventricosum*

The world in your garden

eden project



14 12 07

Contains:  
5  
seeds

Sow: Jan-Dec  
Flowers: Jul-Aug  
Height: 6m (20')

**The Banana Plant**  
*Ensete ventricosum*



Native to  
East Africa

Easy to grow, this magnificent giant can grow 1m a year, with leaves 2 to 3m long. After several years it sends up a final 'firework'; a huge, stunning flowering spike. In its native home, East Africa, it is grown for its seeds, which are used for flour, and its stems, eaten as vegetables.

**How to grow:** The seed should be soaked for 24 hours in warm water prior to sowing, then sown in a warm place. Germination can be erratic, so it is best to sow in small individual pots, or between moist tissue paper in a plastic bag so that germinated seedlings can be removed without harming the others. In the home the airing cupboard is a suitable place. Regular transplantation and heavy feeding of the young plants will maximise growth and result in an impressive plant up to 2m tall within 6 months. Warm bright conditions are needed at all times while the plant is growing. *Ensete* is not hardy in northern gardens, but will survive an occasional light frost elsewhere. It is most widely used as a specimen or dot plant for summer bedding schemes, but is invaluable wherever a tropical effect is required.



www.edenproject.com

Suttons Seeds Paignton,  
Devon, England  
www.suttons.co.uk

eden project

4/09/C