WHEN WILL THEY BLOOM OR FRUIT?

Grand Nain is an outstanding banana variety growing from 6 to 8 feet tall and solid green in color. Very attractive for its landscaping potential and good wind resistance. It produces very large heads of delicious fruit, faster than any other banana in the industry. This usually occurs within 6 to 12 months from the time you receive the plants. They will bloom first then fruit forms afterwards. The plants need to be outside in summertime to achieve fruit and receive plenty of water.

CAN THEY BE GROWN IN POTS?

Yes they can successfully be grown in containers forever. Remember this banana is tropical and must be grown in a frost free environment so a container is necessary if it freezes in your zone. Repot the plants into 12 inch or larger pots separately. You can transplant gradually one pot size per year up to 20 inches in diameter. They like it wet. If your pot is too small place a tray under the container to catch water so roots can uptake it from the bottom too. For larger pots this is not necessary.

IS PRUNING NECESSARY?

If you find your plants are too big inside a container to bring inside, you can cut all stems away to six inches above soil – but this will delay fruiting. They will however grow back thicker and very fast! Otherwise you should cut away the main stem after that particular stem has produced fruit. This encourages new banana shoots from under the soil near the crown.

LEAVES OFTEN DROOP IN SUMMER?

These like a lot of water in the summer. In pots on the deck in the hot sun, water them every day. Often a late afternoon watering and morning watering is needed.

HOW DO YOU WINTERIZE PLANTS IN THE GARDEN?

These must be brought inside before it freezes. They only take about 30°F before it kills the plant. They prefer to stay above 50°F. If your plant inadvertently gets to 30°F, prune hard leaving about 10 inches above ground level. Bring it inside and keep it warm. The stem will be soft and gelatinous but the crown underneath the soil may sprout new shoots. If temperatures dropped below a 30°F the banana plants will not survive.

When your plant arrives from Roberta’s, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.
Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water thoroughly. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal.

You should place plants outside as long as evening temperatures stay above 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Plants prefer full sun or partial sun.

These plants respond to regular weekly fertilizing with a balanced houseplant food that promotes growth and flowering.

Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material.

Transplant into a larger 12 inch separate containers with adequate drainage holes.

Water again.

KEY TIPS
The tropical red variety must be brought inside before it freezes. They only take about 30F before it kills the plant. They prefer to stay above 50F. If your plant inadvertently gets to 30F, prune hard leaving about 10 inches above ground level. Bring it inside and keep it warm. The stem will be soft and gelatinous but the crown underneath the soil may sprout new shoots. If temperatures dropped below a 30F the banana plants will not survive.

SHELF LIFE
Water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot.

PLANT PREPARATION
Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal.

POTTED PLANTS
Repot the plants into larger 12 inch pots separately. You can transplant gradually one pot size per year up to 20 inches in diameter. They like it wet so a tray under the container to catch water is recommended.

SOIL
They like bagged potting mixes for houseplants that will drain well. Most garden centers carry various brand names with perlite, vermiculite, soil and sand.

GARDEN PREPARATION
If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil for adequate drainage.

PLANTING SPACING
If planting into the garden space them 10 to 12 feet apart. If planting into a container allow for adequate air ventilation on deck or patio.

PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH
In a frost free garden, these will grow to 6 feet the first year and 8 feet in ensuing years with about 8 to 10 feet in width. In pots they’ll reach a maximum of 6 to 8 feet tall too and 5 feet wide!

WATER
They like it wet. Water them in well. Keep moist. In pots, water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot. You may leave a tray underneath pot to help keep them moist.

FERTILIZER
To promote more flowers and fruit use a well balanced fertilizer like Roberta’s Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) weekly in summer.

LIGHTING
Full sun is best outside in summer. Otherwise a half a day of sun is o.k.

BLOOMING
Occurs in summer generally beginning within 6 to 12 months.

FRUITING
Grand Nain is an outstanding banana variety growing from 6 to 8 feet tall and solid green in color. Very attractive for its landscaping potential and good wind resistance. It produces very large heads of delicious fruit. faster than any other banana in the industry. This usually occurs within 6 to 12 months from the time you receive the plants. They will bloom first then fruit forms afterwards. The plants need to be outside in summertime to achieve fruit and receive plenty of water.

Harvesting
You can leave them on the plant and pick when ripe or pick the bunch when green and let ripen in a moisture free environment. The large leaves are great for wrapping meats and fish for steaming or grilling.

USDA HARDINESS ZONES 8 to 11
The banana is hardy in zones 8 to 11 or about plus 30F.