



“Turning Possibilities into Realities”

2011 “WINNING FOR SEYCHELLES”

Tourism - Linking Cultures

Horticulture...Our Culture (part 4)



Year 2012: Rio + 20: The future we want Going Bananas

The banana is the most popular fruit in our world. Cultivated in the tropics, the origin of bananas has been traced back to Southeast Asia. According to horticulturists, the fruit first grew in Malaysia, but was farmed for the first time in Papua New Guinea.

The banana tree itself is actually the largest herbaceous plant in our world. The fruit, of course, is eaten either raw or cooked in a variety of styles. From the Indo-Malaysia region, bananas made their way to the Indian subcontinent with curious travelers enamored of **the novel fruit.**

Bananas are more like flowers...you can't mess around with them.

Richard Benson, Photographer

Motivation Building Measures

The Quest For Food Security A Banana A Day Keeps The Doctor Away

Conservation note

Banana Power

Members of the Genus *Musa* (part of the family *Musaceae*) they are considered to be derived from the wild species *Musa Acuminata* (AA) and *Musa Balbisiana* (BB).

It was in Africa where the fruit gained the name by which it is known today. The fruits brought by slave and ivory-trading Arabs were vastly different from the ones we know now, being about as long as a man's finger. The Africans derived the term "banana" from the Arab term for finger, which was "banan" to describe the fruit.

It is believed that there are almost 1,000 varieties of bananas in the world, subdivided in 50 groups. The most common banana is the Cavendish variety which is the one produced for export markets 55,221,871 (fifty-five million two hundred twenty-one thousand eight hundred seventy-one) metric tons of bananas are produced by 47 countries around the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world in 2008. Other varieties are also produced by the Local Community as an essential staple commodity.

Bananas have very beneficial properties. They are a good source of vitamin C, B6, and A. Bananas have a high content of carbohydrates, while they are low in protein levels and fat free. They are also rich in potassium.

Banana is the number one fruit with **the world's leading athletes**. It can also help to overcome or prevent a substantial number of illnesses and condition, making it **a must** to add to our diet. They include: Depression, PMS, Anaemia, Blood Pressure, Brain Power, Constipation, Hangovers, Heartburn, Morning Sickness, Mosquito Bites, Nerves, Ulcers, Temperature Control, Smoking and Tobacco use, Stress, Strokes and Warts.

Exotic Tropicals

The Learning Curve
A la découverte

Musa Ornamental Banana

There are several species of *Musa* cultivated as **ornamentals** in view of their **exquisite grandeur**.

The family name commemorates Antonio Musa, physician to the First Roman explorer Octavius Augustus. Also Asian in origin, ornamental bananas add a **lush** tropical elegance to gardens and modern flower arrangements.

Lasting more than three weeks after cutting (three months on the plants) ornamental bananas are continuously initiating excited interest in the field of floral research. These small broad-leafed plants bear stiff, upright buds that can be cut when young and tight, then shipped **without fear of bruising**.

We now have the honour of introducing five species of *Musa* Bananas appealing to our visual and all for olfactory senses rather than taste senses and which are now valued residents of Kot Man-Ya garden.



Musa Ornata Red cv. Bronze Banana

A highly attractive plant. Its leaves are long and

wide with an orange mid rib running the length of the leaves. Its bloom is a bronze/orange that unfurls its blooming bracts to reveal tiny banana like cream colored flowers. Very rare!



Musa Ornata cv. Lavender Banana

A stunning species that produces large Lavender/pink blooms which open up as the flower matures. Foliage has a blush tinge to the green leaves, adding a colourful tropical touch to any garden!



Musa Coccinea cv. Okinawa Torch

Red flowering banana, Red Thai banana or Okinawa Banana Flower heads are about eight inches long and six inches in diameter. Its scientific name, **Musa Coccinea**, means **scarlet banana**. The orange, red bracts, lighting tipped in yellow, do not curl backwards in typical banana fashion.

A rare and extremely beautiful banana and one of the most sought after.



Musa "African Red"

This most exciting "New" species from Western Africa, has beautiful dark green foliage surrounds the 7 to 10 ft trunk. Its inflorescence is a bright pinkish red, peeling back its bracts to reveal green/yellow ornamental bananas. Absolutely spectacular.

Other ornamental Musa varieties include ; Siam Yellow Banana, Milky Way, Mannii, Sumatra, Zebrina, Burmese Blue, Royal Ruby, Macro, Royal Purple and Becarrii.



Musa Velutina cv. Self Peeling Banana

The stunning Self-Peeling Banana is also known as pink-fruited banana. The rows of yellow flowers mature vertically into fuzzy fruits (**velutina means "velvety"**), which have the **bizarre** habit of peeling themselves.

Each banana ripens its reddish skin then automatically peels back, exposing a white seedy pulp. Although the flesh is edible, its black seeds unusual in bananas will germinate if provided with the right conditions.

This exquisite variety is an excellent choice for small garden areas, height 4' to 10', partial sun – ideal as potted plant.

Self-Peeling Bananas provide a sure piece of conversation wherever they occur and food for birds, geckos and lizards in their natural habitat and gardens.

Year 2012: Rio + 20: The future we want

The green Economy

Over the past 12 months since the theme “The Green Economy” was coined, a Global Debate as to how best to define it in setting the next Global Agenda, **pertaining to our common future** is ongoing. One of the many characteristics presented for inclusion for maximum impact and which is applicable to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is as follows:-

“The preservation and protection of the world’s ecosystems, biological diversity and forests in partnership with indigenous peoples and all relevant stakeholders through the creation of sustainable Governance Models, Markets and business Model’s for delivering, maintaining and paying for ecosystem service”.

In our deliberations and subsequent action, it is therefore appropriate for us there to also pay particular attention to such important issues, so as to effectively showcase our position as (SIDS) in Rio + 20 for the benefit of all, particularly the weak and the less fortunate towards the future we want.

To date more than 600 countries national governments, NGO’, international agencies and other interested parties have submitted their contributions to what will be the first negotiating text for the Rio + 20 Earth Summit. All concerned in the Seychelles Island should endeavour to do likewise soonest, through the production of National Paper agreed upon by all parties concerned. TESS is already in the process of completing its modest contribution. Let the General Debate begin.

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Eco Lodge Kot Man-Ya



A new Seychelles secret, Eco Lodge Kot Man-Ya a two bedroom tropical bungalow, nestling in the middle of Kot Man-Ya gardens, 2 acres of floral delight.

The Eco Lodge is barely visible amongst the giant foliage. A green and oxygen rich environment, healthy “stress free” living, just what the doctor ordered.

For more information, and reservation please contact Keven Tolfree or Winselle Marengo-Tolfree, email: [kevintolfree@yahoo.co.uk] or [winselle@gmail.com] -Tel: (248) 2599839 / 4371190