Diversity of banana cultivars

This portal is part of an on-going effort to document the diversity of edible bananas and clarify their taxonomy. *Musapedia pages on edible bananas* lists the cultivars and improved materials that have a Musapedia page, while *Taxonomy of edible bananas* does the same for the groups and subgroups. This classification is based on the nomenclature system developed by Simmonds and Shepherd.

The number of banana cultivars is hard to pin down. It used to be estimated at 500 or so[^1][^2], but it has also been suggested that it could be twice as many.

If you want to contribute to a diversity-related page that doesn't exist, contact us and we will add it to the list. You can also consult the banana cultivar checklist, whose goal is to list the various vernacular names given to banana cultivars and identify which ones are synonyms (different names that refer to the same clone) and homonyms (similar names that refer to different clones).

If you are wondering why this portal is not called the diversity of bananas and plantains, check out our take on the question.

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**Musapedia pages on edible bananas**

**Cultivars**

- Apantu
- Asupina
- Bira
- Bogoya
- Bungulan
- Figue Pomme
- Gerei Langi
- Giant Cavendish
- Grande Naine
- Gros Michel
- Huamoa
- Iholena lele
- Inarnibal
- Karat
- Kayinja
- Kisubi
- Kolale
- Lahi
- Lai
- Lakatan
Latundan
Maoli Maoli
Mbwazirume
Mysore
Ney Poovan
Obino l'Ewai
Pei Chiao
Pelipita
Pisang Awak
Pisang Jari Buaya
Pisang Lilin
Pisang Raja
Pitogo
Saba
Sucrrier
Sukali Ndizi
To'o
Williams
Yangambi Km5

**Improved materials**
BITA-2
BITA-3
BRS Platina
CRBP-39
FHIA-01
FHIA-02
FHIA-03
FHIA-17
FHIA-18
FHIA-20
FHIA-21
FHIA-23
FHIA-25
FLHORBAN 916
FLHORBAN 920
Formosana
GCTCV-105
GCTCV-119
GCTCV-218
Goldfinger
Kabana 6H
Kiwangaazi
M9
NARITA 1
NARITA 10
Taxonomy of edible bananas

Musapedia pages on groups and subgroups of bananas

- **AA genome group**
- **AB genome group**
- **AAA genome group**
  - Cavendish subgroup
  - East African highland banana subgroup
  - Gros Michel subgroup
- **AAB genome group**
  - Iholena subgroup
  - Maoli-Popoulu subgroup
  - Mysore subgroup
  - Plantain subgroup
  - Pome subgroup
  - Silk subgroup
- **ABB genome group**
  - Bluggoe subgroup
- **Fei bananas**
  - Asupina
References


Related content

Domestication of the banana
Checklist of names of cultivated bananas
Where bananas come from in Under the peel, the blog of the ProMusa community, 7 October 2015
The hidden side of banana diversity in InfoMus@'s News and analysis, 24 October 2017

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