

BANANA

Musa acuminata × *balbisiana* (ABB Group)

Musaceae

ECHO® PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

Description

Musa acuminata × *balbisiana* is the scientific name for a hybrid banana that results from the crossbreeding of *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*, which are the parents of most commercial bananas. Many specific banana cultivars, such as the [Saba banana](#) and the [Blue Java banana](#), are designated with this scientific name followed by a specific cultivar name and an ABB group designation, for example, *Musa acuminata* × *balbisiana* (ABB Group) 'Saba' or 'Blue Java (Ice Cream)'

These two parent species are the wild ancestors of most modern bananas, with *M. acuminata* contributing traits for sweetness and *M. balbisiana* providing traits like winter hardiness and sometimes starchiness.