

Banana

Common name: Banana

Botanical name: *Musa x paradisiaca* (is the accepted name for the hybrid between *Musa acuminata* and *Musa balbisiana*. Most cultivated bananas and plantains are triploid cultivars either of this hybrid or of *M. acuminata* alone)

Family name: Musaceae; **Name in Tamil:** *Vaazha*



Field identification: Largest herbaceous (without a woody stem) flowering plant. "Trunk", called corm, is a false stem, which is tall and sturdy; made from sheaths from petioles. Leaves composed of stalk (petiole) and blade (lamina). Leaves 3-7 m, spirally arranged. Flower is an inflorescence. Fruits in large hanging clusters, covered by a peel.

Location on campus: In many residential compounds

References:

1. Menon S, Bagla P. (1999) Trees of India. New Delhi, Timeless Books.p.
2. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banana>
3. Flowers of India Available at www.flowersofindia.net

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