

# Red Banana

## *Musa coccinea*

Red banana is an evergreen, palm-like, suckering perennial. It bears paddle-shaped long, glossy green leaves. In summer, erect spirals of tubular, yellow flowers are enclosed in red bracts. These are followed by inedible, small orange fruit. Banana plants, with their huge paddle-shaped leaves, add tropical drama to sheltered gardens in summer. Stems will die back with frost but will reemerge from the roots in the spring. This plant prefers to be grown in a semi-shaded location as leaves can burn when grown under full sun. Shadier conditions result in taller plants. Protect plants from the wind. It is suitable for containers. Well-drained and fertile soil is required. Keep roots moist and feed generously to promote growth.

**Type:** perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 9 through 11

**Uses:** specimen; accent; mass planting

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Height:** 3 feet      **Spread:** 3 to 5 feet

**Plant spacing:** 4 to 6 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun to part shade

**Soil tolerances:** moist; slightly acidic; loam

**Drought tolerance:** low

**Soil salt tolerances:** moderate

**Invasive potential:** not known to be invasive

**Pest resistance:** no known pests or problems

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INFORMATION**

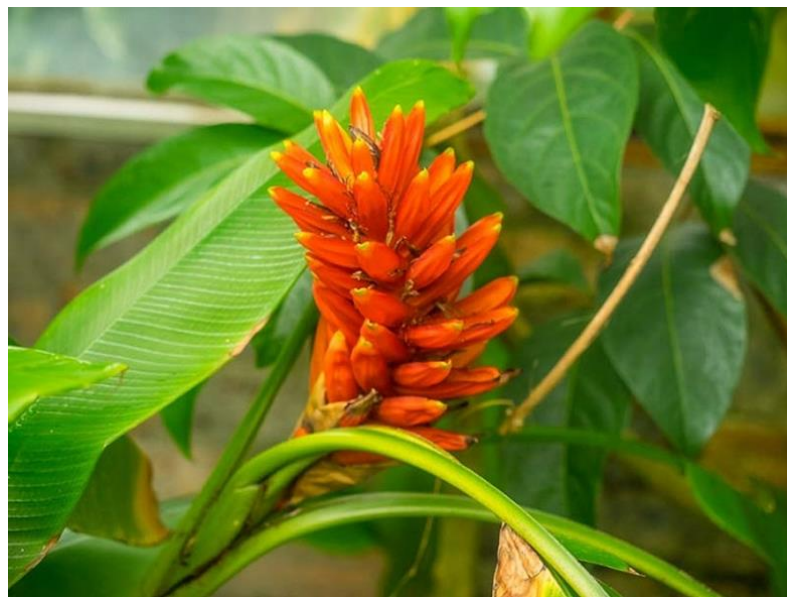


Photo: UF/ IFAS