

Cultural Information – Ensete
(en-SET-ee)

<u>Light:</u>	Full or partial sun, a southern, eastern or western exposure. The more light, the better, as it is the intensity of light and the length of the day that speeds up growth.
<u>Temperature:</u>	For optimum growth, it is best to keep temperatures above 60°, especially during the winter months. They will tolerate temperatures down to just above freezing which will dramatically slow down growth.
<u>Humidity:</u>	Preferably 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm.
<u>Watering:</u>	When in active growth, keep soil evenly moist, using a well-drained potting mix. Be sure to keep the plant from sitting in water. When watering, thoroughly saturate the soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. Growing in a clay pot will help maintain a healthy root system.
<u>Fertilizer:</u>	Fertilize with a soluble fertilizer; ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water every week when grown in full sun and when night temperatures are above 60°. Reduce feeding when they are grown under cool conditions. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or 7-9-5.
<u>Pruning:</u>	The maturing plants do not need pruning, except to remove an occasional old leaf that is turning yellow. This variety produces a central stem with no offshoots.
<u>Insects and Disease:</u>	Bananas have few problems with insects. Spider mite can be an issue under dry, hot conditions. They also have some susceptibility to both root and foliar disease during the winter months under excessive soil moisture and cool conditions.
<u>Comments</u>	Keep increasing the pot size of 4-6” as the plant grows, being sure not to cramp the root system, as this will dramatically slow down growth and fruiting.