Banana

- Marking the bunches 3 months before harvesting. (after complete the female stage) with colored ribbon
- Removing 1-2 apical hands
- Covering with plastic bags (with insecticide) – protecting from leaf scarring & dust







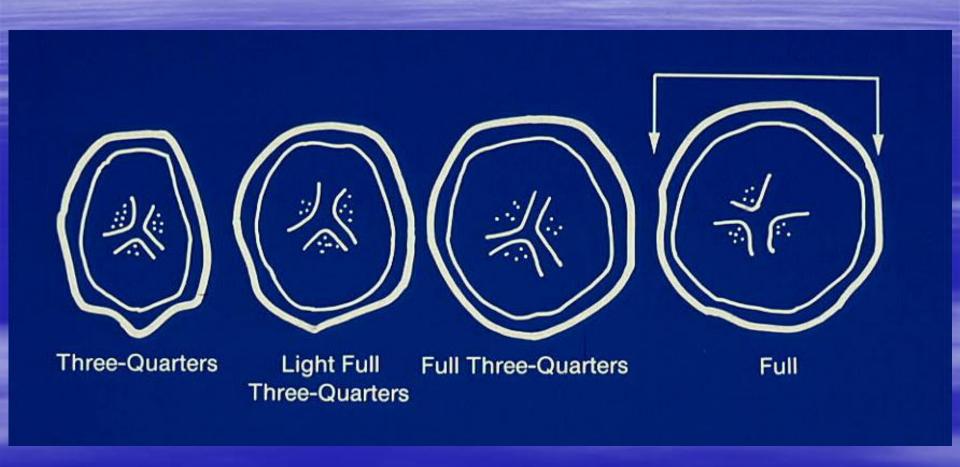




Harvesting

- Harvesting green at about 75% mature stage
- CA or MA technique facilitate harvest more mature
- Close markets facilitate harvest mature fruit

Maturity Stages of Banana Fruits



Harvesting

- Hold the bunches under shade
- Transfer fast as possible to packing house
- Fruit checked for grade (maturity, size, defects, insects etc.)
- Cutting the hands
- Floated hands in water with chlorine (100ppm) – to remove latex (20- 30 min)









Disinfecting

- Remove floral relic from the finger tip
- Separate hands to clusters (4-10 fingers each)
- Remove from water
- Treat with fungicide (TBZ or Imazalil) and antioxidant (alum – aluminum potassium sulfate) - by Deeping or spray or pads



Banana Defects









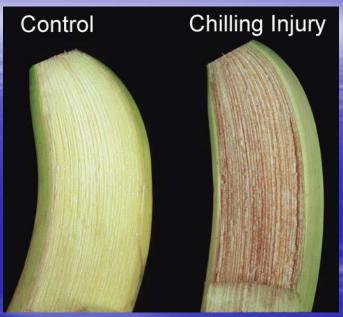
Packing & Transporting

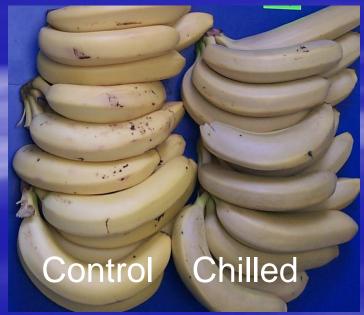
- Packing into boxes with polyethylene bag
- Transporting at 14c 15c

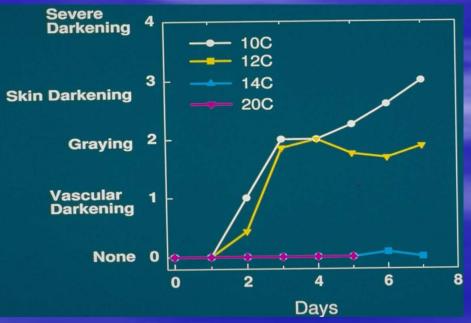
Chilling Injury Symptoms on Bananas









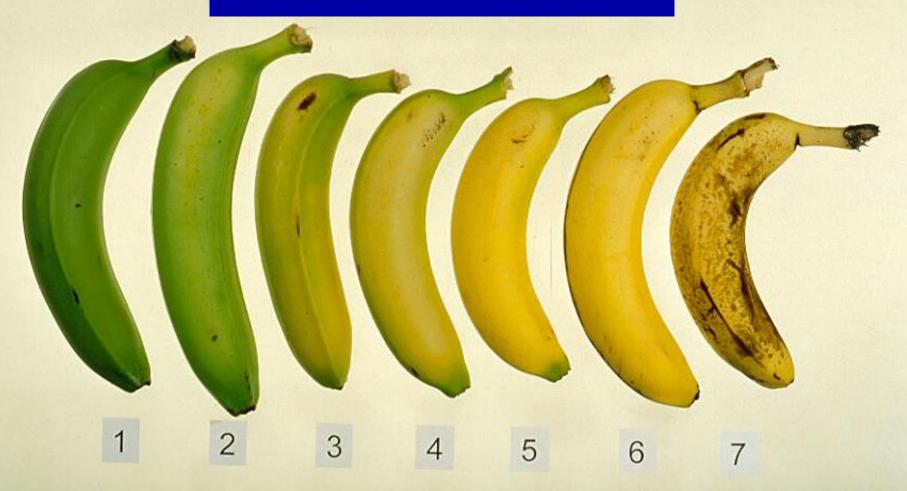


Ripening

- Done next to markets area or by the distribution center
- Done with Ethylene (100 150ppm)
- 24-48 hours
- Temp 15.5c 18c
- RH 90%-95%
- Skin color must be 3 (color's scale)



Banana Ripeness Chart



Dole Banana Color Chart



ALL GREEN

As received at your warehouse from Central and South America.



LIGHT GREEN

First color change during warehouse processing, usually seen on the shoulder.



50% GREEN, 50% YELLOW

Recommended color for warehouse outturn. Adjust back or ahead for delivery time, temperature, distance and retail color preferences. Consumers purchase now to enjoy later.



MORE YELLOW THAN GREEN

Ready for retail display.

Great eye appeal and long product life.

Minimum shrink for retailer.



YELLOW WITH GREEN TIPS

Most popular color stage for consumer purchase. Since higher temperatures speed color change, this color can be maintained longer by holding boxes in a cool area at 56° to 60°F.



FULL YELLOW

Firm fruit with great eating flavor. Easily bruised - handle with extra care.

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YELLOW FLECKED WITH BROWN

Sweet eating flavor. Perfect texture and consistency for blender drinks and baking.

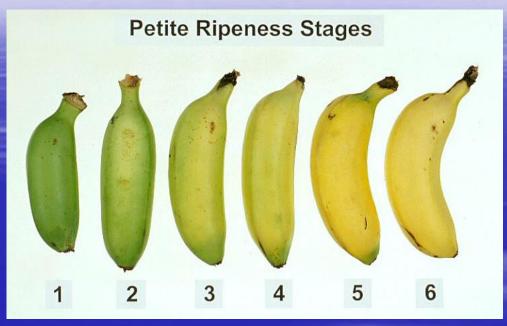
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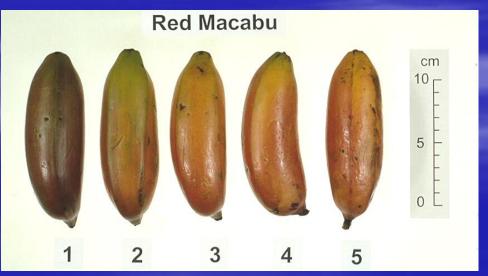
Banana Ripeness Chart

Starch Pattern

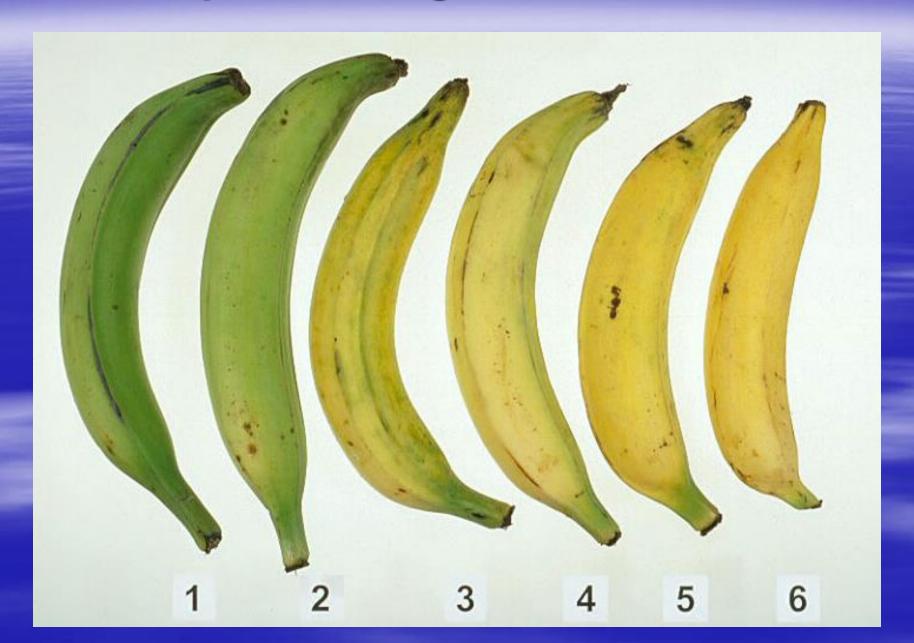


Ripeness Charts for Specialty Bananas





Ripeness Stages of Plantains



MA

Temp 12-14c



