

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Red ornamental banana *Maurelii*: bold leaf colours and a frost-free winter

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AI-created scene based on the original shop image. Size reference: 2 young plants · each in a 12 cm pot · about 30 cm overall height. Decoration not included; not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

Issue September 2026

PLANT PORTRAIT

Ensete ventricosum 'Maurelii'

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Botanical classification	Ensete ventricosum 'Maurelii'
Family	Musaceae
Origin	Cultivated form of Ensete ventricosum from tropical Africa
Delivery size	2 plants · each in a 12 cm pot · about 30 cm overall height
Growth and special feature	Large herbaceous foliage plant with a strong pseudostem and red-flushed green leaves

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Bright warm summer position; acclimatise to sun.	No abrupt intense sunshine after sheltered cultivation.
Water	Supply evenly according to need during growth.	Consumption increases with leaf area.
Soil	Nutrient-containing, loose and well-drained.	Constantly wet soil weakens roots.
Fertiliser	During active growth following product instructions.	Do not force extra feeding during winter rest.
Wind	Position with shelter.	Large leaves tear easily in strong wind.
Winter	Bring in before frost, bright and frost-free, keeping above about 7 °C.	The shop's hardy description is not reliable care advice.
Quarters	Reduce moisture and ensure air exchange.	Cool wet conditions may encourage rot.
Spring	Gradually acclimatise to outdoor light and support new growth.	Do not injure the young leaf centre during care.

Knowledge that grows

Red-brown leaf veins set the tone

Ensete ventricosum *Maurelii* belongs to the banana family and is a red-flushed cultivated form of an African species. Green leaf surfaces, darker undersides and reddish midribs change their effect with light and development. The strong apparent trunk consists of densely overlapping leaf sheaths. This makes it a large herbaceous perennial, not a tree. It is presented here as ornamental, not for harvesting ordinary dessert bananas. Its beauty lies in its structure and coloured leaves, long before any possible flowering becomes a subject.

Two small plants to begin with

The offered set of two consists of plants in 12 cm pots at about 30 cm overall height. Original images show a few slender young leaves, not yet mighty mature leaf fans. The scene retains this development stage too. Later *Ensete* may become substantially larger in good conditions and require more standing room and root space. Plan at purchase how the plant will reach its winter quarters in autumn. A small pot is easy to carry; a strong specimen may later be considerably heavier and more cumbersome.

Summer light with protected leaves

A bright warm, wind-sheltered outdoor position is suitable for the summer months. After cultivation under glass, gradually acclimatise to direct sun. Particularly in a warm greenhouse, light shading may help prevent overheating. Soil should contain nutrients and drain well. Move growing plants to a suitable stable container in good time without placing a young plant in excessive quantities of persistently wet soil. Strong wind may tear leaves; a green torn leaf need not be removed immediately for that reason.

Supply vigorous growth evenly

In summer, check the root ball regularly and water thoroughly when needed. Water demand rises with larger leaf area. Complete drying weakens the plant, whereas standing water stresses roots. Remove surplus from the outer pot and keep drainage clear. Feed during active growth following product instructions. If growth stops in cool weather, do not force it with extra nutrition. With yellow leaves, consider natural ageing of lower leaves, light and root condition too. Balanced continuous supply is more helpful than alternating extremes.

Clearly resolve the conflict with the shop description

The shop offer calls the plant hardy. For *Ensete Maurelii*, this is incorrect as practical outdoor advice: it is frost-sensitive and must be brought in before frost. Bright frost-free overwintering under glass suits the small set plants, for example with a safely maintained temperature above about 7 °C. The cooler and dimmer its position, the less water it uses. Check the root ball and supply only according to need. A mere layer of mulch outside does not replace these winter quarters.

Stay healthy through the rest period

Before bringing it in, remove dead leaves and inspect leaf undersides and sheaths for pests. Allow air exchange in the quarters and watch for soft rotten areas. Water consumption and growth may fall strongly; then stop feeding too. Do not injure the central young rolled leaf. In spring gradually acclimatise again to outdoor light and weather, increasing supply only as growth resumes. Elaborate dry storage of large defoliated specimens is a specialised cultivation method; monitored frost-free pot cultivation is easier to understand for small young plants.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop image: red ornamental banana. 2 plants · each in a 12 cm pot · about 30 cm overall height. Natural variation is possible.



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Good to know

Is red Ensete really hardy?

No. Ensete Maurelii is frost-sensitive and needs frost-free winter quarters. The corresponding shop description is horticulturally corrected here.

Can I cover it outside like Musa basjoo?

A simple cover is no reliable substitute for frost-free overwintering. The two banana species have different winter requirements.

How large do the plants arrive?

The set of two is described with a 12 cm pot each and roughly 30 cm overall height. The plant may later become considerably larger.

Can I keep watering heavily in winter?

No. Supply water according to actual consumption, much less during cool rest. Check the root ball and avoid standing wetness.

The matching offer

[View set of 2 in the shop](#)

Link to the offer in German. Check the shop for the current price, availability and delivery contents.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer (in German)