

HAVE YOU EATEN THIS PLANT BEFORE?



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COMMONS
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 *swipe to find out*

YOU VERY LIKELY HAVE!

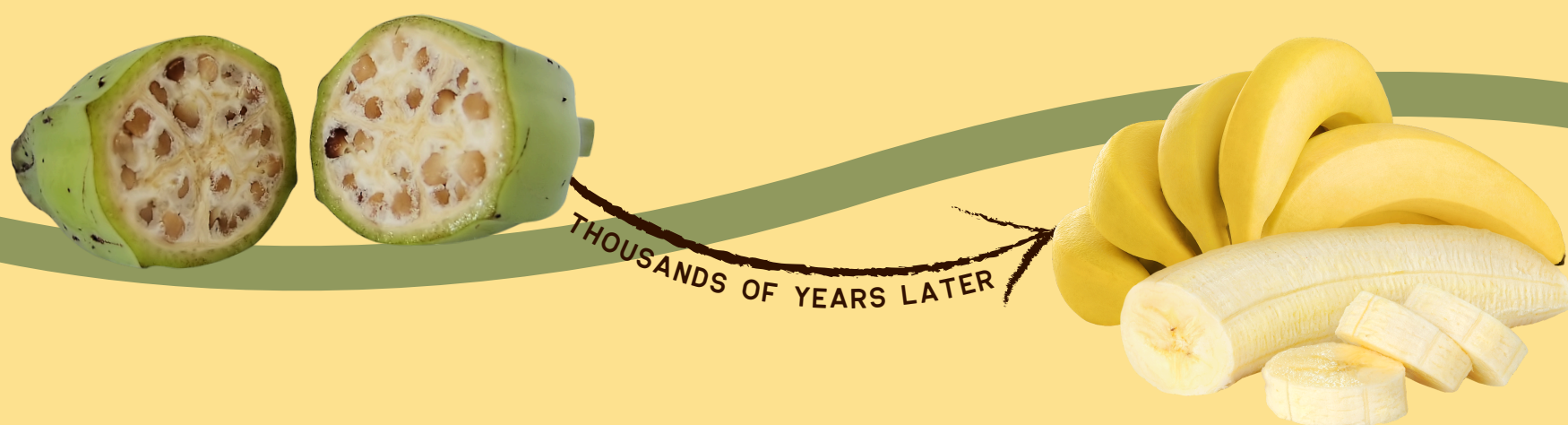


 *swipe to learn more*

BANANAS

MADE BY NATURE - GUIDED BY US

**WILD BANANA PLANTS
HAD MANY LARGE SEEDS - NOTHING LIKE TODAY'S
BANANAS.
THIS WAS THE REALITY OF BANANA THOUSANDS OF
YEARS AGO.**



**THROUGH DOMESTICATION & THOUSANDS OF YEARS
OF BREEDING AND SELECTION, BANANAS LOST
THEIR BIG SEEDS AND BECAME FATTER AND
SWEETER.
READY FOR US TO ENJOY.**

OLD TRAITS



- Large, hard seeds & little edible pulp
- Sour, starchy, sometimes bitter taste
- Small, irregular fruit size & shape
- Firm, fibrous texture
- Simple 2-set chromosome structure- like many wild plants.
- Reproduces by seeds
- High natural variability (shapes, colours)

NEW TRAITS



- Seeds reduced to tiny black specks
- Thick, soft, sweet edible pulp
- Large, uniform fruits
- Creamy & smooth texture
- Most modern bananas have three sets of chromosomes - leading to sterility and seedlessness
- Clonal propagation: new plants grow from cuttings, not seeds.
- High uniformity within cultivars (e.g., Cavendish subgroup)

WHY WE CANT STOP HERE!



MODERN BREEDING IS STILL NEEDED TO DEVELOP BANANAS THAT ADDRESS TODAY'S NEEDS BECAUSE:

- Diseases keep evolving, including TR4 and Black Sigatoka.
- Crops must stay productive under tougher conditions.
 - Demand is growing, requiring reliable supply.
 - Consumers want better taste and quality.
 - There is potential to improve nutrition.
 - Production must become more sustainable.
 - Better storage and transport reduce losses.
- Bananas need better adaptation to changing environments.

BECAUSE THE BANANAS WE GROW TODAY WEREN'T BUILT FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GROWING CONDITIONS. BREEDING HELPS US CREATE BANANAS THAT STAY PRODUCTIVE UNDER TOUGHER ENVIRONMENTS, RESIST EMERGING DISEASES, USE RESOURCES MORE EFFICIENTLY, AND REMAIN RELIABLE FOR FARMERS AND CONSUMERS ALIKE.