

The insect which deposits the egg referred to is the Raspberry Cane Borer (*Oberia bi maculata*). The perfect insect is a long horned beetle which flies during the month of June, and in oviposition the female girdles the cane both above and below the place, and the part of the stem above soon droops and withers. The young larva burrows down the centre of the stem, and in the autumn changes into pupa form, remaining in the stem during the winter and escaping the following June. It is not usually sufficiently numerous to effect much mischief, and should be easily kept in check by cutting off and burning all infested canes.



FIG. 1819. BANANA.

### The Banana

1149. Give me what information you can about growing the Banana plant.  
Orangeville.

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There are several varieties of the Musa or Banana family. The varieties that are probably best known to horticulturists for greenhouse culture are Musa Cavendishii, of Chinese origin, and Musa ensete from Abyssinia; the latter variety grows readily from seed and makes a nice decorative plant. All of the Musa family require a greenhouse to grow them successfully; they like a rich,

light soil, plenty of heat and moisture in summer, and plenty of root room to grow in. In winter they require much less water, but the temperature should never be lower than 55 degrees, even at night, to be successful with them.

Musa Cavendishii fruits readily when three or four years old when grown under favorable conditions. It is generally propagated from offsets or suckers that grow up around the old stem, these suckers can be taken off when repotting, and grown on in pots for a year or more, when in spring they can be put into a large tub two feet or more in diameter, and proportionately deep, and if grown in rich soil and given plenty of heat, shade and moisture in summer, with less heat and water in winter, will probably fruit in two or three years. Shortly after fruiting the old stem dies down, so it is necessary to secure young plants as before described. A good specimen will grow from six to eight feet in height, and when well grown has a beautiful tropical appearance.

The Musa are not desirable plants for lawn decoration in summer, unless they can be given a well sheltered and shaded position, as the foliage is light in texture and liable to be torn and broken by storms. The Musa ensete is probably the best variety to stand outside in summer for decorative purposes.

Hamilton.

W. HUNT.

### Areca Lutescens.

1150. SIR,—I should be glad if you could tell me in an early number what is the reason that a palm does not open its leaves and sends up a plain straight spike. I have a number of palms which are all right, but I have one "Areca Lutescens" which has acquired this habit.

JOHN A. ROBERTSON.

Chateauquay Basin, Que.

The habit of the palm, Areca lutescens, as described in above question, is perfectly natural; in fact there are but comparatively few varieties, common to greenhouse culture, that develop their foliage otherwise than by means of this leaf blade or spike. Among