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Have Bananas Lost Their Mojo?

By Aimee Cremasco

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Though their sexy shape may resemble a "GoldMember," modern-day bananas simply aren't shagadellic. According to Belgian and French scientists, bananas may become extinct within the next 10 years due to their lack of genetic diversity, which makes them prone to attacks by diseases.

There are two primary fungal diseases attacking banana plantation, Panama disease and black Sigatoka. Biotechnology and genetic manipulation may be the only way to save the fruit. Scientists hope to find disease-resistant genes from a non-edible variation of the banana, and then inject them in the edible ones. Unfortunately, it's difficult to develop genetic variance in asexually reproducing plants. Cross-pollination with these wild plants is possible, but scientists claim it won't be easy.

Almost all bananas, as we know them today, are clones of naturally mutant wild bananas, which were discovered as many as 10,000 years ago. This rare mutation caused wild bananas to grow sterile. To keep the fruit alive, ancient farmers took cuttings of the mutants, then cuttings of the cuttings, and so on. According to a recent article published in The Guardian, "Plants use reproduction to continuously shuffle their gene pool, building up variety so that part of the species will survive an otherwise deadly disease. Because sterile mutant bananas cannot breed, they do not have that protection."

Honduran scientists have peeled and sifted 400 tons of bananas in an effort to find seeds for breeding they found 15 of them. Though it may not sound like many, scientists are developing a fungus-resistant variety that could be grown organically.

Sure, modern science may be able to save this fruit, but even if bananas survive thenext 10 years, chances are they will look and taste quite different.

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<http://www.sophiainguelph.com/>

Word Associates was founded by Aimee Beck in 1999. Within a few years, Word Associates quickly built its global clientele, and continues to serve all four corners of the world with its revolutionary

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Best Recipes: Strawberry Banana Milkshake

By Donna Monday

There's nothing more delicious and nutritious than strawberries and bananas together. Now you can have these two delicious fruits in a scrumptious milkshake. Strawberry Banana Milkshake is a great drink to have any time of day.

Bananas and strawberries are good for you and go perfectly with milk. You're probably used to having them on your cereal, but now you can see how delicious they are in a tall, frosty glass filled with this wonderful milkshake. Enjoy.

Strawberry Banana Milkshake 2 bananas 10 oz. box frozen strawberries, partially thawed 2 cups milk 2 pints strawberry ice cream

Directions

Slice the bananas. Combine bananas, strawberries, milk and 1 pint of the ice cream in blender, in batches.

Blend until smooth. Top each with scoop of remaining ice cream.

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Donna Monday

Easy to make - fun to drink

Best Recipes: Strawberry Banana Milkshake

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