

# Banana Circle

# Granja Cinco Soles

Nogueras, Comala, Colima, México  
Guillermo Romero Ibarrola



- We started by making a compost pile on the selected site. about 9 ft. across



- ⑥ Once the compost was ready and soil underneath enriched, we marked the circle. 12 ft circumference



- There are two concentric circles about a foot apart, the inner one was excavated at a depth of about 3 ft.



- The soil excavated was placed between the two circles; forming a mound.



- Once deep enough, the excavation was covered with cardboard.



- We started filling the pit using wood, and layering with compost, fresh cuttings, wood ash, and soil



- We used three loads of wood, as this one.



- I wanted to get rid of a large piece of tree root that had been around for a while on the land without fully decomposing. It has a cavity in the center and here it acts as a hose delivering water to the bottom layers of the pit.











- ⑥ The mound was formed with the soil removed from the centre exclusively.



- Leaving an entrance facing the slope to catch surface runoff and access to feeding compostable matter into the centre.



- Stones were used on the outer side of the mound to prevent erosion and, because they look nice and we have plenty.



- Once the mound was leveled, we planted bananas, plantain, vetiver grass, ginger, curcuma and sweet potatoes. We also planted in the inner slope of the mound once the cardboard was degraded.



- After a few weeks of growing.



- Please notice that we do not let dead or fallen leafs from banana or plantain plants accumulate at the trunk. Once fallen, we cut them off, chop and drop at the centre of the circle. This avoids mosquitos and other critters, and facilitates air circulation.



👁️ The first bunch



- The bunch needed to be supported with the help of a "Y" branch from guácima trees in our property. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guazuma\\_ulmifolia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guazuma_ulmifolia)) A great tree to have around for this and many other uses, since the branches are fast growing, straight, long and rather durable.



- Please notice the shade and wind protection provided by neighboring taller trees; in this case paulownia and parota trees. So far, we are totally free from Fusarium



- 👁 Bananas almost ready to be pick.



👁 Plantain



👁 Plantain above, bananas below.



- 👁️ **Curcuma, mulched with the chopped banana leaves.**

# For more Information:

- <http://treeyopermacultureedu.wordpress.com/chapter-10-the-humid-tropics/banana-circle/>
- [http://www.networkearth.org/videos/Pattern\\_Application.html](http://www.networkearth.org/videos/Pattern_Application.html)