

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Bunch covers should be 1.2 meters in length.
2. The schedule for bunch covering in a plantation is usually every 1 to 2 weeks.
3. Bunch covers that are not damaged can be re-used.
4. If bunches have more than 7 hands, take off the male flower bulb, this will increase the bunch weight.

HOW TO ORDER

The cost per bunch cover is approximately G\$35.00. For specific information please contact:

Guyana Marketing Corporation
Tel: 226-8255, 227-1630,
226-2219, 226-9599
E-mail: newgmc@networksgy.com



NGMC

PLANTAIN AND BANANA BUNCH COVERS



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With the assistance of
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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The use of plastic or polyethelene bunch covers can benefit your banana or plantain crop in two ways:

- They protect the skin of the fruit against leaf, insect and bird damage as the fruit matures.
- With use of the bunch covers fruit size is more uniform and larger throughout the bunch.

Bunch covers can increase yields by 5-25%. Bigger individual bananas or plantains with less skin damage means a better market price and higher profit.



HOW TO USE BUNCH COVERS



When to put on covers:

- 2-3 weeks after flowering
- The flower remnants at the base of the fruit should be hard and dry.
- The fingers of the fruit curl upward.

How to put covers on:

- Slide the bunch cover up from the bottom of the stalk.
- Securely tie or attached the bunch cover to the bunch stalk above the first hand of fruit.
- The cover should be left open at the bottom and hang at least 150 millimeters below the last hand of fruit
- Covers should be left on until harvest, about 2 months later.

IMPORTANT HANDLING INFORMATION

Poly D Durshan® sleeves are treated with an insecticide known as Cholorpyrifos. Safe usage is extremely important. Personnel should be trained in proper use.

- *Wear gloves, long sleeve shirts, trousers and shoes while working.*
- *Wash your hands with water and soap after handling.*
- *Wash your hands prior to eating during work time.*
- *Use clean clothes every day.*
- *Do no mix work clothes with ordinary clothes during laundry*
- *Do not eat or smoke while handling the bunch covers.*
- *Do not put the bunch covers in the mouth*
- *Do not hang the bunch covers around the neck*
- *Never rub eyes with the bunch covers.*