



KALRO/Postharvest Programme Factsheet No. 038/2024

USE OF CRATES IN BANANA PACKAGING

Importance

Crate/ bulk packaging is essential in maintaining the quality of bananas during transport and subsequent handling. The basic functions of bulk packaging are to provide adequate protection to bananas, to contain convenient quantities of bananas, to facilitate the transportation, handling and distribution of bananas.

Procedure

- High quality bananas are harvested, de-handled and washed.
- They are packaged in clean plastic crates lined with a thin film of polyethylene sheet or newspaper.
- Over-packing should be avoided since it leads to bruising and compression damage.



Packaging of banana fruits in crates



Stack plastic crates with banana fruits



Transportation of unpackaged banana fruits using a pick up

Don'ts of packaging

- Do not mix stale fruit with fresh glossy fruit on the cluster.
- Do not pack curly hands with straight hands.
- Do not mix grades in the same crate.
- Do not mix fruit of different maturity in the same crate.
- Do not mix fruit of different ages in the same crate.



Compiled by: Gathambiri C., Wayua F., Okoko N., Amata R., Nyaga A., Nyonje W., Cheboswony R. and Wasilwa L.

Edited by: Nyabundi K., Mukundi K.T., Wanyama H.N., Mbugua D.K. and Ekadeli J.

Design and Layout: Nogrecia Mnene

For more information, contact:

The Institute Director
Horticultural Research Institute
P.O. Box 220-01000.Thika
Tel:0721859410

Director.hri@kalro.org