Banana
Sampling & Growth Stages

Timing: Sample at stage 5.0 (Inflorescence emergence), then at 6.1 and again at 7.0.
Sample volume: 10 leaf midribs.
Sampling: Collect 15 cm of midrib from where the leaf blade begins on the 3rd leaf from the top of the main plant, counting the youngest still furled leaf as the first.

Primary Stage	Secondary Stage		Comments
4		*Leaf development of the sucker*	
	4.5		Sub-phase of independent growth: leaves of approx. 10cm width are developed (original leaf/ zero leaf).
	4.55		Development of the 5th leaf of approx. 10cm width.
	4.9		End of this phase is reached with the development of the characteristics of the genome or clone. Beginning of synchronised development of "normal leaves".
5		*Inflorescence emergence*	
	5.0		Normal leaves finished developing and flower bract emergence.
	5.1		Flower bract at candela stage 2.
	5.3		Flower bract at candela stage 6.
	5.5		Flower bract completely open.
	5.9		Emergence of the first sterile bract protecting the flower.
6		*Flowering*	
	6.1		2nd sterile bract rises and the rachis or flower stalk takes a pendulum position.
	6.5		Full bloom: at least 50% of the hands of female flowers are developed
	6.9		The bracts that protect the hands wither and fall off.
7		*Development of fruit*	
	7.0		At least 50% of the fingers show an upward curvature and fruit begins to fill.
	7.4		Up to 40% of the hands have reached the maximum thickness of the fruit.
	7.9		All hands have reached the maximum thickness of the fruit.
8		*Ripening of the fruit*	
	8.1		Degree of maturity 1: green. Normal colour of the fresh fruit.
	8.2		Degree of maturity 2: tinge of yellow.
	8.5		Degree of maturity 4: more yellow than green.

Growth Stage numbering system is in accordance to the extended BBCH, a uniform coding of phenologically similar growth stages for all plant species

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