

# Dutch bananas can be used in beer and lingerie

**Last November, Dutch bananas were harvested from the Neder Banaan greenhouse in Ede, where WUR is studying new banana varieties and more sustainable cultivation.**

The 1600 bananas were used as an ingredient in banana cakes and in a specialty beer. The skins were put to good use too. Cooks marinated them and cooked 'pulled peel', a vegan meat substitute for salads or bread rolls.

The Ede greenhouse is the only banana greenhouse in the Netherlands. The plants are grown in pots filled with coconut fibre, rather than in soil, which protects them from soil fungi. These fungi are a threat to banana cultivation around the world, causing Panama disease for example. Gert

Kema, professor by special appointment of Tropical Phytopathology and the man behind the Neder Banaan, has been studying cultivation methods and new banana varieties for years for that very reason.

The stalks of the banana plants in Ede also got recycled. On plantations, the stalks are burned after the harvest, but the Ede stalks were used to make transport pallets and even panties. Start-up Musa Intimates made banana lingerie from the fibres.

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