

## Mellow Yellow

(Donovan)

[Verse 1]

I'm just mad about Saffron  
Saffron's mad about me  
I'm just mad about Saffron  
She's just mad about me

[Hook]

They call me mellow yellow  
(Quite rightly)  
They call me mellow yellow  
(Quite rightly)  
They call me mellow yellow

[Verse 2]

I'm just mad about Fourteen  
Fourteen's mad about me  
I'm just mad about Fourteen  
She's just mad about me

[Hook]

[Verse 3]

Born high forever to fly  
Wind velocity nil  
Wanna high forever to fly

If you want your cup our fill

[Hook]

(So mellow, he's so yellow)

[Verse 4]

Electrical banana  
Is gonna be a sudden craze  
Electrical banana  
Is bound to be the very next  
phase

[Hook]

[Verse 5]

Saffron -- yeah  
I'm just mad about her  
I'm just mad about Saffron  
She's just mad about me

[Hook]

(Oh so yellow, oh so mellow)

"Mellow Yellow" is a song written and recorded by Scottish singer-songwriter Donovan. It reached No. 2 on the US Billboard Hot 100 in 1966 and No. 8 in the UK in early 1967.

The song was rumored to be about smoking dried banana skins, which was believed to be a hallucinogenic drug in the 1960s, though this aspect of bananas has since been debunked. According to Donovan's notes, accompanying the album *Donovan's Greatest Hits*, the rumor that one could get high from smoking dried banana skins was started by Country Joe McDonald in 1966, and Donovan heard the rumor three weeks before "Mellow Yellow" was released as a single. According to *The Rolling Stone Illustrated Encyclopedia of Rock and Roll*, he admitted later the song made reference to a vibrator; an "electrical banana" as mentioned in the lyrics. This definition was re-affirmed in an interview with *NME* magazine: "it's about being cool, laid-back, and also the electrical bananas that were appearing on the scene - which were ladies' vibrators."

Paul McCartney can be heard as one of the background revellers on this track, but the "quite rightly" whispering answering lines in the chorus is not McCartney but rather Donovan himself. Donovan had a small part in coming up with the lyrics for "Yellow Submarine", and McCartney played bass guitar (uncredited) on portions of Donovan's *Mellow Yellow* album.