








Fact Sheet

Common name	Fig		
Botanical name	<i>Ficus carica</i>		
Summary:			
<p>Early cultivation dates back to at least 2500BC in Egyptian times and have remained a staple of the Mediterranean diet ever since. A vigorous large deciduous tree in the MORACEAE family along with the Mulberry (<i>Morus alba</i>), that can occasionally get to 20m high yet normally to 6m. with rough, green 3 lobed leaves, and luxurious fruit. figs can be trained to open vase, espalier, bush shapes, and can even be coppiced to achieve a low bush suitable for pots. Figs have the distinction of bearing their flowers on the inside of the fruit (a syconium).</p>			
Likes		Doesn't like	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most soil types except for very sandy. • Hot dry summers, cool moist winters. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly exposed structural wood from heavy pruning can sunburn in high heat. Paint with water based whitewash. • Wet feet • Heavy frost when young 	
Flowers in	Late spring, summer.	Fruits in	Some figs produce two (breba) crops a year. Summer to the end of autumn
Care			
Planting	Plant dormant bare rooted trees in winter. Or propagate from dormant cuttings containing a stub of two-year-old wood at the base with two or three previous season buds above.		
Pollination/ self-fertile, requires another tree	The most common fig (Adriatic) fruits without pollination. With some less common varieties (Capri, Smyrna, or San Pedro) requiring a second tree with the fig wasp doing the pollinating work.		
Pruning	Figs love to sucker from roots, so avoid root pruning. Prune to a node as stems tend to rot if not done so. Winter prune to stimulate fruiting wood, summer prune to restrict vigorous growth		
Disease and pest management	Birds are the primary pest, and fungal rot can be a problem in humid wet summers.		
Moisture, how much and when	Water from spring until fruit begins to ripen, reduce water until after harvest as the fruit will split with too much water.		
Feeding	Low feeder, requiring little if any fertiliser.		
Harvesting	When fully ripe the neck of the fruit starts to wilt allowing the fruit to droop.		

What to do when		 Prune	 Harvest	 Feed	 Pest / Disease
 Summer	Dec	•	•		•
	Jan	•	•	•	•
	Feb	•	•	•	•
 Autumn	March		•	•	•
	April		•		
	May		•		
 Winter	Jun	•			
	Jul	•			
	Aug	•			
 Spring	Sep				
	Oct				
	Nov				

This is a rough guide only. Individual fruit tree care depends on the variety, the conditions in your garden and your personal preferences!

picture



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