

Fig

DID YOU KNOW
THERE ARE OVER
750 KNOWN
VARIETIES OF
FIGS!

CAN I GROW FIGS?

Figs are an incredibly delicious, healthy fruit that have been consumed for thousands of years for their high potassium, fiber, calcium, and Vitamin A & K content. Figs need warm weather and lots of sunlight to produce consistently, so they do best in USDA zones 8 and up. Figs are also unique in that most varieties will usually produce two crops every year, maximizing fruit production in the home orchard.

HOW TO PLANT FIGS

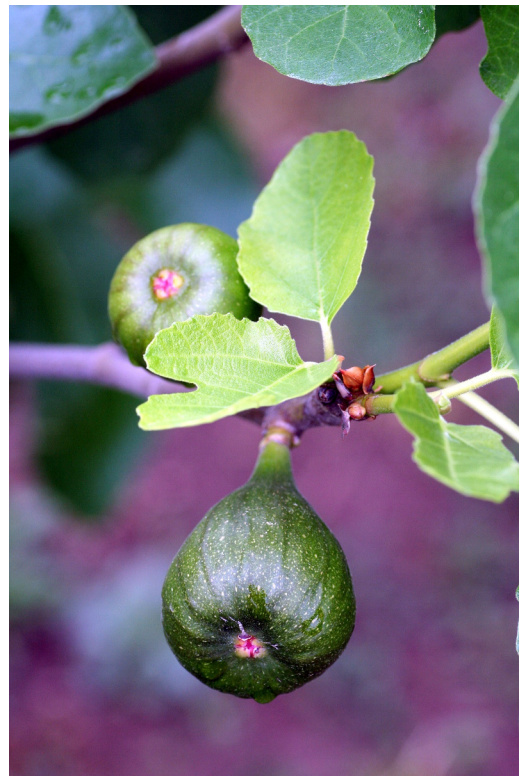
The best time to plant a fig tree is in the fall (when the tree is dormant) or in the spring (before it has leafed out). To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the pot. Mix a combination of soil and compost that has a ratio of 70% soil to 30% compost. Fill up the hole with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball will be flush with the ground. Then set the plant in the ground and backfill with your soil mix. Water thoroughly to remove any air pockets.

PLANTING FIGS IN A POT

Do you live north of zone 8 but still want to enjoy delicious, tree-ripened figs? No worries, figs can easily be grown in pots that can be brought indoors when the weather temperatures begin to drop. To plant figs in a pot, you will want to use a potting soil rich in nutrients and a pot that has plenty of draining holes. We also suggest putting down a layer of mulch after planting to retain water. Make sure to keep it in a sunny area where it can easily be brought inside!

MAINTENANCE

Figs are remarkably easy to keep alive if cared for properly. They should be watered when the soil is dry three-five inches below the surface (potted figs will dry out more quickly than figs planted in the ground). They can be pruned in the spring before they put on new growth, if desired. Figs should also be fertilized in the spring with a full-spectrum, organic fertilizer (not in the first year, though). In the summer, when they begin producing figs, you can fertilize every few weeks with liquid fish emulsion to replenish nutrients (be careful not to over-fertilize when using a pot).



COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

PESTS

The most common pest that afflicts fig trees is the spider mite. Spider mites are small bugs that weave fibrous webs on the leaves and stems of plants and eventually can kill them. To identify spider mites, just look for thin, white webs on your fig tree. If you see webs, look for tiny, brown bugs. If you see either of these, you likely have spider mites. To eradicate them, wash the tree down with water to physically remove as many bugs as possible. Then, treat the tree with neem oil to kill any remaining bugs and eggs. You can re-treat the tree with neem after about a week to completely clear the plant of any remaining mites. The best time of day to use neem oil is in the evening.

FUNGUS

One of the most common diseases that fig trees experience is fig rust. Fig rust is a fungal infection that often sets in when figs experience extremely wet or humid conditions. It starts as small, yellow dots underneath the leaves and eventually spreads and darkens. Thankfully, fig rust isn't usually fatal, but it can weaken the tree and even kill it if left untreated. We suggest treating with a copper fungicide. It is a good idea to spray preventatively in the spring (when the first leaves have grown to maturity) and again a couple of weeks later. This should keep the fungus under control.

POPULAR FIG VARIETIES

Celeste:

Light brown-purple skin and pink flesh
Ripens June-July, slower-growing but more cold-hardy than other varieties.
Grows in USDA zones 7-10

Ischia:

Greenish-yellow skin and bright pink flesh
Ripens July-August
Grows in USDA zones 7-9

Brown Turkey:

Dark-brown skin and pink flesh
Ripens in August
Grows in USDA zones 7-10

Texas Everbearing:

Purple skin and pink flesh
Ripens July-November
Grows in USDA zones 7-10

Black Mission:

Dark purple skin and bright pink flesh
Ripens August-November
Grows in USDA zones 6-9

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