

Fig

Ficus carica · Mulberry family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 2–3 years to first useful crop



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate,
drought-tolerant
once established



SOIL PH
6.0–6.5



SPACING
4–6m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Roots love confinement

Figs fruit best when roots are slightly restricted — planting into a large buried container or root barrier can improve fruiting and stop overly vigorous, fruitless growth.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant at the same depth as the pot; consider a root barrier in rich soil.
SOIL	Tolerates a wide range; free-draining is more important than fertility.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

04 Problems

- **Fruit fly** — net or bag ripening fruit.
- **Birds** — figs are a favourite; net well.
- **Rust** — leaf spotting late season; generally cosmetic.
- **Excess vigour, little fruit** — too rich a soil or too much nitrogen; ease off feeding.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly while young, then ease off — established figs are quite drought-tolerant.
- Avoid excess nitrogen, which grows leaf at the expense of fruit.
- Prune in winter to maintain an open shape and manageable size.
- Net against birds and fruit fly as fruit ripens.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit droops on the stem and feels soft.
METHOD	Pick gently — ripe figs bruise easily.
CURING	None needed; can be dried for long-term storage.
STORAGE	Fridge only a day or two fresh; dried figs keep for months.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Comfrey	Dense underplanting	Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.