

Bonsai Ficus - Plant



The ficus or fig is a tremendously popular bonsai tree species. They are tolerant of low light conditions, overwatering, and beginner mistakes. For these reasons it is often recommended as a beginner bonsai or indoor bonsai tree. Other popular features include its interesting surface roots and aerial banyan roots that can develop and hang down from its lower branches. This is why they are so often used in root over rock styles. This article will go into more detail on how to care for ficus bonsai.

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Description

Description for Bonsai Ficus

Ficus is a pan-tropical genus of trees, shrubs and vines occupying a wide variety of ecological niches; most are evergreen, but some deciduous species are endemic to areas outside of the tropics and to higher elevations. Fig species are characterized by their unique inflorescence and distinctive pollination syndrome, which utilizes wasp species belonging to the Agaonidae family for pollination.

The always popular ficus tree is a member of the fig family and perfect for caring for as a houseplant. There are several varieties of this plant that are grown as houseplants. Among these are the ficus benjamina or weeping fig, the ficus lyrata or fiddle head fig, and the ficus elastica decora or rubber tree.

Ficus plants range from large trees to woody shrubs to trailing vines. The ficus comes in many shapes and sizes that make this a popular focal point in your home.

Ficus (genus Ficus), a group of about 900 species of trees, shrubs, and vines, commonly called figs. Native primarily to tropical areas of East Asia, they are distributed throughout the world's tropics. Many are tall forest trees that are buttressed by great spreading roots; others are planted as ornamentals.

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Common name	Flower colours	Bloom time	Height	Difficulty
-	-	The flowers are inconspicuous and the plants are grown mainly for their foliage	It is a tree reaching 2 meters to 30 meters (98 ft) tall in natural conditions. Most people keep it as indoor for	easy to medium

2 to 3 years.

Planting and care

Sunlight	Soil	Water	Temperature	Fertilizer
Ficus can grow in a wide range of lighting conditions. Some varieties can grow in as low as 800 lux, a measure of light intensity, but most varieties need 1,000 to 2,000 lux. This is one of the lowest light requirements of all bonsai making it one of the least difficult species to keep indoors. However, unless the ficus is kept near a window (west or south facing) or fluorescent light it may be hard to provide it with the light it needs.	Rich, humusy and well-drained soil.	Ficus including salicifolia and nerifolia are not very hard to water. This is a good quality for a beginner bonsai to have as many beginners to the hobby tend to kill their first tree by over or under watering the tree. The tree will be happy as long as it isn't allowed to completely dry out. Ideally keep the soil moist and mist the tree daily. The key is to keep it moist but not wet as that leads to root rot. Ficus will usually let one know they are being overwatered by dropping leaves. Fertilizing can be done by mixing in a half strength liquid fertilizer when the tree is watered every 2 to 4 weeks.	Ficus are tropical and do well in USDA zones 10-11. They grow exceptionally well in Florida where it is sunny and the temperature rarely gets very low. Ficus do not like temperatures below 50 degrees Fahrenheit and should be brought indoors in areas with cold winters.	Feed with slow-release pellets in the beginning of the growing season. Fertilize once a month in the spring and summer and once every two months in the fall and winter.

Caring for Bonsai Ficus

Cold drafts from windows or doors will harm them, so make sure to place them somewhere where drafts will not be an issue. Losing its leaves is the most common problems with ficus plants. Leaf drop is a ficus tree's standard reaction to stress, whether it's from any of the following: Under watering or over watering, Low humidity, Too little light, Relocation or repotting, Drafts, Range in temperature (too hot or cold). If your ficus is losing its leaves, go through the checklist of proper ficus tree care and correct anything that you find wrong.

Typical uses of Bonsai Ficus

Special features: Most ficus bonsai trees can produce aerial roots in their natural habitat, which are often presented in appealing bonsai creations with many aerial root pillars or root over rock styles. To enable aerial root growth in our homes a humidity of nearly 100% must be achieved artificially.

You can use a glass cover, fish tank or a construction with transparent sheets for this purpose.

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Culinary use: The common fig (*Ficus carica*) is cultivated for its pear-shaped, edible fruits, which are really hollow fleshy receptacles (syconia) containing hundreds of male and female flowers.

Ornamental use: Ficus trees can maintain their tree-like shape regardless of their size, so this makes them ideal for bonsais or for massive houseplants in large spaces. The plant is used for ornamental purpose. Its generally kep indoor in living room and in terrac area.

References

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/> <http://houseplants.about.com/>

