

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.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

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.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating (drying grapes and similar fruit) or Canning & Bottling (jams and preserves) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

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