

FICUS ELASTICA



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Ficus elastica, commonly known as the Rubber Tree, is a majestic evergreen tree belonging to the Moraceae family. It is recognized for its leathery, very large, and glossy dark green leaves. The reddish sheaths surrounding newly emerging leaves give the plant a distinctive and dramatic appearance.



The species is native to Southeast Asia, particularly India, Malaysia, and Indonesia. In its natural habitat, it is a massive forest tree that can reach heights of 30–40 meters. The milky latex sap released from its trunk was once used in rubber production, which is how it earned its common name. Today, it is an indispensable decorative plant in modern interiors and warm-climate gardens.

Cultivation and Uses

The rubber tree prefers bright but indirect light; direct sunlight can cause leaf burn. It is a fast-growing plant and favors rich, well-drained soils. Due to its tropical origin, it enjoys high humidity; however, keeping the soil constantly waterlogged can lead to root rot. It is sensitive to cold drafts.



In landscaping, it is mainly used in large areas as a shade tree or to create a massive green wall. Indoors, it is favored for its high air-purifying capacity and its sculptural form. There are several leaf varieties, such as 'Robusta' (dark green), 'Tineke' (white-green variegated), and 'Abidjan' (dark burgundy/black). Important note: the white sap released when the plant is cut can be irritating, so care should be taken during pruning.