

# **FICUS MICROCARPA**



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*Ficus microcarpa*, commonly known as Chinese banyan, Indian laurel, curtain fig, or small-fruited fig, is an evergreen banyan tree native to a region stretching from India to China, Japan, Southeast Asia, and the western Pacific. Due to its hardiness and adaptability, it is a common ornamental plant, houseplant, and a popular bonsai species in temperate climates.



- The tree has a dense, rounded crown, a smooth gray trunk, and glossy, dark green, oval-elliptical leaves. When grown outdoors, it develops aerial roots (roots that hang down from the tree's branches) to form a banyan structure.
- It is known as a forgiving and hardy plant that can survive in little or no soil.
- While it can grow up to 15 meters tall in its natural habitat, its size can be easily controlled when grown in pots, making it ideal for indoor and bonsai use.

## Cultivation and Uses

- It prefers bright, filtered light but is tolerant of a variety of indoor light levels.
- Water when the top inch of soil is dry; overwatering should be avoided.
- It prefers warm room temperatures (above 20°C) but is sensitive to cold.
- It is a hardy and forgiving plant, making it suitable for beginners.



- Its attractive appearance makes it a popular choice for homes, offices, and outdoor spaces in temperate climates.
- Its rapid growth and ease of shaping make it a popular bonsai species.
- It helps purify indoor air of some pollutants.
- In some cultures, the roots, bark, and sap have been used for medicinal purposes.
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