

Common Fig, *teen*

The common Fig, or teen in Arabic, is a small, deciduous tree, native to the Mediterranean and often seen in Arriyadh growing on farms, in gardens and as escapees from cultivation. A fairly fast-growing tree, up to 9 metres high with a 3-metre spread, it has a short, heavy trunk with smooth, silvery bark and spreading branches. The leaves are large and rough-textured with three to five lobes. Depending on the variety, of which there are many, the sweet, pear-shaped, edible fruits can be yellow, green, purple or black in colour when ripe. Plants require protection from the wind, full sun to partial shade, and will endure long dry periods, but for fruiting and general appearance, deep watering every month during the summer, with less water in winter, is necessary. They grow well in poor soils, but need good drainage and are not very tolerant of salty or alkaline soils. Generally frost-tolerant, a tree will often lose its leaves in winter. However, a hard freeze can result in dieback of the branches. Propagation is by cuttings, air-layering and root suckering. Apart from its use as a cultivated fruit tree, *F. carica* is a tree with bold foliage and an irregular trunk, which also has ornamental value for a garden. It makes a good background plant or screen in a park and is attractive in its leafless state, because of the picturesque character of its branches. It is also suitable for training on a wall and for planting in containers. Pruning is required to maintain the canopy and improve fruit production.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-Mediterranean, Mediterranean, sub-tropical
Humidity	: semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: cuttings, aerial layering
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (2000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -12°C

SHAPE

Type	: tree, shrub
Height	: 9 m-15 m
Spread	: 3 m-12 m
Foliage	: deciduous

FLOWER

Colour	: green
Size	: 0.5 cm
Period	: May - June

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: drupe(fleshy/ juicy)
Fruit size	: 8 cm - 7 cm
Toxicity	: produced for food, fruit