



Figs

About Figs

Figs trees can grow 3 to 9 m high, with numerous spreading branches. Fig fruits may be egg- or pear-shaped, 1 to 4 in (2.5-10 cm) long.. The common fig (coppery, bronze, or dark-purple color) does not need pollination to bear fruit. The Calimyrna varieties (yellowish-green color) require pollination (by a small wasp) to form fruit. In California, there are 2 crops, one in May-June and the other in December-January.



Climate and Soil

Temperature	Frost tolerance	Water needs	Tolerance to water logging	Drought tolerance
Ideal is 15-18°C can tolerate up to 35°C	Withstand cold down to 5-10°C	Needs consistent watering	Susceptible	Withstands drought

Humidity tolerance	Wind tolerance	Soil needs	Nutrient requirements
Low relative humidity Some insects - like bark insects - attack the tree weakened by excessive humidity	Dislikes wind	Grows on a wide range of soils with good drainage	Best pH is 6.0 to 6.5. Nitrogen at 22 to 44 kg/ha. Too much nitrogen can cause excess leaf production and slower fruit ripening

Cultural Practices

Propagation	Through rooted cuttings- Rooted cuttings of 1 yr old wood best but can use up to three years old wood.
Rootstocks	Not used – just use cuttings
Spacing	5 x 5 m (400 plants/ha) Intensive 2.5 x 2.5m (1600 plants/ha)
Training and pruning	Modified open center system, light pruning and topping during initial years
Tillage and orchard care	Mulch and till to make weed free. Avoid inter-row cultivation to prevent damage to the shallow root system
Time to first harvest	1 year
Normal productive life	12- 15 years
Expected yields	1.25-3.7 t/ha
Harvest	Normally, picked from the tree or gathered after falling to the ground. Mechanical sweepers can be used for those on the ground.
Storage	Up to 30 days at low temperatures at 0-2°C
Pests and diseases	Nematodes, stem borer, fig mosaic, leaf rust

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References: 1. Fig fact sheet. Fruit and nut research and information center, UC Davis. If relevant include a major reference or web site used.
2. Morton, J. 1987. Fig. In: Fruits of warm climates. Julia F. Morton, Miami, FL. p. 47–50.

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