

Fig

Ficus carica v. *Lattarulla*

Figs are wonderful fruiting ornamentals gracing the landscape with their large, tropical looking leaves and spreading habit. Fig trees have been entwined with the human race since the earliest of times and of course figures into the book of Genesis. Figs were so valuable in Greece that the word "sycophant" means "fig eater." Pliny the Elder of Rome said in A.D. 80, "fig restores the elderly to better health and causes them to look younger." The first examples were introduced into Mexico in 1560. Figs were introduced into Virginia in 1669. *Lattarulla* bears two fig crops per season. The first crop bears on last season's wood in midsummer while the second crop bears on new wood only six to eight weeks later. Technically, the fig is not a fruit, it's actually stem tissue that has enclosed on the tiny flower; the botanical term is syconium.



Identification

Leaves

Deciduous, simple, palmate, deeply divided into 3-7 main lobes, and irregularly toothed margins. Large blades. Rough upper surface, hairy beneath.



Bark/Wood

Bark is whitish to yellowish white and smooth. Older trees may show some flaking.



Flower/Fruit

Monoecious; flower is small and inconspicuous. Fruit is pear-shaped, yellowish green, 1-3 inches long, softly fleshed.



Form

Small tree. Trunk may be twisting or contorted. Branches are stout and marked with leaf scars.



Uses

Grown as landscape specimen and for fruit.

Ethnobotany

Native Distribution

Southwest Asia.

Establishment

Growing Conditions and Culture

Mature Size

20'Hx15'W

Soils

Diverse

USDA Zone

7-11

Drought Tolerant?

Yes

Light Requirements

Full Sun

Inundation Tolerant?

No

Pests/Damaging Agents

Few to none.

Similar Species

Propagation

Possible from seed, but more often budded or grafted. Hardwood cuttings - winter. Layering.

Source(s)

Transplants from Northwoods Nursery, Molalla, OR.