

Ficus (*Moraceae*)



australis **(*F. rubiginosa* "Australis")**

Origin: Indonesia. Australia. Large, evergreen shrub or tree, very decorative because of the large leaves, up to 15cm long, glossy dark green. Adult plants produce round green fruit. Grows well indoors.

benjamina, Weeping Fig

Origin: India, Malaysia. Evergreen tree or large shrub with slender arcuate or drooping branches. Long narrow oval leaves are dark green on top, paler on underside. Produces lovely small fruits of 1 cm, at first pink or red, then green, black when ripe. Principally used as a beautiful indoor pot plant, in the hotter parts of Sicily it is planted along roadsides.





benamina "Variegata"

Like *Ficus benamina*, but with leaves brightly variegated in creamy-white.

elastica "Decora", Rubber Tree

Origin: South East Asia. Outside its natural habitat, often cultivated under cover, where it keeps shrub-like habit and its size. Commonly used as a house plant. In its own or similar habitats, grows as a tall evergreen tree with many branches. Dark green glossy leaves, from oblong to elliptical, coriaceous, 30-45 cm long. Once mature, produces 1 cm yellow fruits. Grown outdoors, requires humus-rich soil, damp but well-drained.





elastica "Doescheri"
(F. elastica "Variegata")

Like the above, but the mid vein of the leaves and stipules are pink, the centre is green, with margins creamy-white all round.

nitida "Retusa"

Origin: Japan, China, Malaysia, Australia. Evergreen large shrub or tree, with dark green ovate leaves. 6-12 cm. The small, round fruits are black when ripe.





repens (F. pumila)

Origin: Eastern Asia, Vietnam, China, Japan. Evergreen climbing or trailing plant which clings to even the smoothest walls. Leaves are at first tiny, from ovate to elliptical and in the adult stage they appear cream, then green and larger, almost shiny so as to seem to belong to another plant. The white flowers are not very showy. Small green, not edible fruit. Especially suitable for positions in full shade, even indoors.

carica, Edible Fig

Origin: Western Asia, Eastern Mediterranean. Large, deciduous shrub or small fruit tree often grown in gardens to create shade and as an ornamental plant because of the large polymorphic leaves, but more often palmate with 3-5 rounded lobes, dark green and paler green on the underside. Flowers: invisible because they form inside the fleshy receptacle which grows around the small seeds and altogether this makes up the fruit. The fruit is edible, extremely sweet, varied sizes and colours depending on the variety. Loves light and warmth, prefers loose, rich, cool, permeable soil but withstands drought and tolerates lime. Tolerant of maritime exposure as long as it is protected from the direct action of saltiness.



Ficus



“Brogiotto nero”

Large, round, blackish-red fruit. September-October.

“Brown Turkey”

Medium-sized, round, blackish-red, very resistant to cold.



“Del Portogallo”

Violet fruits in June.

Ficus



"Figalino"

Small, round, green fruit. September-October.

"Gentile"

Yellowish fruit. July.



"Panachée"

Green with yellow stripes. Very sweet

Ficus

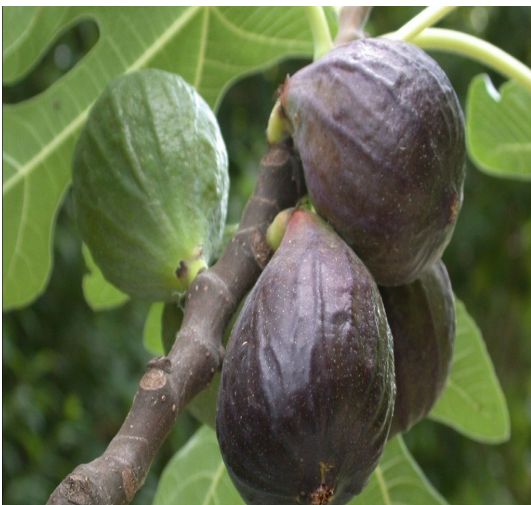


"Turca"

Round, black, very sweet fruit. Produces flowers in autumn and fruits in spring.

"Verdino"

Small, very sweet, yellow and green fruit.



"Violette de Sollier" ("Burgassote noire")

Very large, round-longish, violet black.