PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Ficus variegata* Blume

**GENUS** *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

**COMMON NAMES** Variegated Fig, Green-fruited fig

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, Fruit, Sap

The freshly cut stems yield drinking water.
The fruit are edible but not attractive. Young fruit can be used cooked.
The young leaves are eaten cooked.
The sap is used as a food additive in palm starch.

## DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a medium sized buttressed tree up to 7-18 m high. The trunk varies in length and can be 20-30 cm across. Trees can be larger. The bark is characteristically brown and smooth. It is thick with an abundance of latex. The young shoots are pale green. The leaves are broad and oval and leathery, shiny and smooth. They are 14-20 cm long and 8-12 cm wide. The base of the leaves is rounded and heart shaped. The leaf stalks are 3 to 8 cm long and brown. The leaf like structures (stipules) at the base of the leaf stalks are 1-1.5 cm long, smooth and pinkish. Swollen structures are found along the larger limbs. Red figs with white spots are produced on the trunk and larger branches. The fruit is round and smooth and turns deep yellow when mature. The fruit are 3-4 cm across. Trees may bear thousands of fruit which are eaten by birds. Named varieties occur based on the colour of the fruit. The fruit are edible.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. They occur in the Philippines in lower forested regions from Luzon to the provinces of Mindanao. In Australia they are in the tropical rainforests and in coastal districts. Trees demand humidity and light. They are often on well drained soils at the edge of the rainforest. It grows in valleys at low and middle altitudes in S China. In Indonesia trees grow up to 1,500 m altitude. In XTBG Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

It can probably be grown from seed or by aerial layering. It seeds and grows naturally under the right conditions.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

It is a fast growing tree. In the northern hemisphere it flowers in April and May and fruits in July and August.

## NOTES

There are about 800-1000 Ficus species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 Ficus species in tropical America.

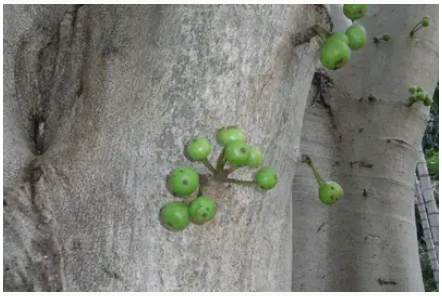
## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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