PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus natalensis Hochst.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Bark cloth fig, Natal fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are eaten as dessert fruit.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is an evergreen tree. It can be a shrub or a strangler. It lives off other plants. It grows up to 8-30 m tall. It can spread 15 m wide. The leaves vary a lot in shape. They are often thick, leathery and triangle shaped. They are 3-9 cm long by 1-4 cm wide. They occur in rings like a four leaf clover. The leaf tip is blunt. The fig fruit are 1.5 cm across. They are rusty brown.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in rocky situations. It grows in tropical and Southern Africa. It grows in areas with a high water-table. It grows between 10-2,200 m above sea level. It grows in areas with an annual rainfall between 600-800 mm. It can grow in arid places. It grows in Miombo woodland in Africa. It suits hardiness zones 10-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It is grown from seeds. The figs need to be crushed to release the seeds. It can be grown as a hedge.
There are 6 pollinator wasp species.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It grows quickly.

NOTES

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

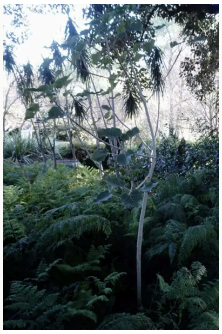
PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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