PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus macrophylla Desf. ex Pers.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Moreton Bay Fig, Australian banyan

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

Young leaves are eaten in curries.
The ripe fruit are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a large spreading tree. It is evergreen. It grows to 20-40-55 m high. It spreads about the same width. There are buttresses at the base. It has strangling roots. The trunk can be short. It has irregular flanges. The bark is grey-brown and smooth. The young shoots are rusty brown. The leaves are large and leathery and dark green. They are a rusty colour underneath. The fruit or figs are 2-2.5 cm across. The figs ripen to reddish-brown.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It is native to E Australia. It grows in rainforest. It suits humid locations. It can tolerate salt laden winds. They can grow in temperate places and tolerate moderate frosts. In Melbourne Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 9-11.
Ficus macrophylla subsp. columnaris occurs on Lord Howe Island.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed. The seed are removed from the fig and mixed with sand before sowing as they are very small. Take the seed from ripe purple fruit.

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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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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