PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus lutea Vahl

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Giant-leaved fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves

The fig fruit are eaten as a snack.

DESCRIPTION

A strangler fig. It often grows attached to other plants. It can grow to a large tree. It grows 18 m high. It can spread 12 m wide. The trunk can be 3 m around. The crown is very wide and round. It can have aerial roots. The bark is grey brown. The leaves are large and evergreen. The leaves are dark green and slender. They are 38 cm long by 20.5 cm wide. They are crowded near the ends of branches. The leaf stalks are 2-8 cm long. The tip is pointed and the base is rounded. The leaf stalk is 12 cm long. The leaves are in spirals on stout small branches. The figs are small and orange-red when ripe. They are crowded closely together along the ends of the branches. They are 1-1.7 cm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows in river forests and woodland. In East Africa it grows from sea level to 2,000 m altitude. It can be in palm groves, on the edges of mangroves and in coastal sands. It grows in areas with a rainfall of 600-1000 mm per year. It grows in the Sahel. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown by seeds. It can be grown from branch cuttings. Cuttings grow easily.

Harvesting and Seed Production

Plants grow quickly under warm, moist conditions. A fruit can weigh 3 g.

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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