PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus auriculata Lour.

GENUS *Ficus* **FAMILY** Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Eve's apron, Roxburgh fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit, Leaves, Flowers, Seeds

The ripe fruit are eaten raw. They are sweet. They are also made into jams and used in curries. Green unripe fruit are used as a vegetable. They are also dried.
The young leaves can be eaten raw. They are also boiled and used as a vegetable.

DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a small tree. It grows 5-10 m high. The trunk is 30-50 cm across but often less. The crown is broadly spreading. The trunk is usually not straight. The bark is warty and grey. Young shoots are hollow. The young shoots are reddish brown. They are 1-1.5 cm across. The leafy structure at the base of the leaf is triangle shaped and reddish brown. It is 1.5-2 cm long. The leaves are alternate and 10-25-55 cm long by 7-23-27 cm wide. They are rounded and softly hairy underneath. The base is normally deeply heart shaped. There can be small teeth along the leaf edge. The figs grow on the base of the trunk and on short branches of old stems. The fruit is 5-7 cm across. It is green when young and dark red when ripe. The fruit is sweet and with a sweet smell. There are ribs along the fruit.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It needs light and humidity. It grows up to 700-800 m altitude. It is most common about 100-400 m altitude. It often grows along rivers. In Nepal it grows up to 2000 m altitude. In China it grows in moist valleys in forests between 100-1700 m altitude and sometimes to 2100 m in S China. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In XTBG Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. It can be cut back and regrow. Hand pollination can probably increase fruit size. It can be grown by marcottage.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is fast growing. In Nagaland fruit are available June to 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)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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