PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Ficus virgata* Reinw. ex Blume

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

**COMMON NAMES** Large-Leaved Weeping Fig

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Fruit, Leaves

The fruit are eaten.
The young shoots are eaten in curries. (Leaves under 3 days are eaten fresh.)

## DESCRIPTION

A fig. It is a medium size tree. It grows 10-20 m tall and spreads 10-25 m wide. It has a rounded or pointy crown. It has strangling roots but not aerial roots. The trunk can vary in length and has irregular flanges in it. The bark is grey and leathery. The young shoots are pale green. The leaves are simple and 10-20 cm long by 6-8 cm wide. They are oval. They are dark green and shiny on the upper surface and paler underneath. There is a flat gland where the midrib and first side vein join. The leaf stalks are 0.5-1 cm long. The fig fruit are 2-3 cm across. They are round and pink brown and produced in the axils of leaves. The surface of the fruit is rough. When they are ripe the fruit are orange to dark red.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows naturally in tropical rainforests. It is at low elevations.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or by aerial layering. It can also be grown by cuttings.

### Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia, fruit are produced in all months of the year.

## NOTES

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

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**PROVIDED BY** **Food Plants International**

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

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