



PLANT FACT SHEET

Ficus pumila Linn.

GENUS *Ficus* FAMILY Moraceae

COMMON NAMES Creeping fig, Climbing fig, Ivy-like fig

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Fruit

The fruit are used for jelly. The ripe fruit are put in a porous bag and the juice squeezed out. The juice is then cooked and cooled into a gelatinous jelly.

DESCRIPTION

A climbing fig. It clings to other plants. There are climbing aerial roots in the axils of leaves. It can climb 14 m or more. It often climbs up buildings. It can spread very widely. The leaves are of 2 types. The leaves are small, flat and heart shaped. They are 4-5 cm long. With age, new non climbing growth appears. These form thick stem. This growth has larger leaves which are fleshy. The flowers are very small. They occur singly. The fig or fruit are barrel-like and purplish green. They can be 5 cm long by 3 cm wide. The young figs are green but turn purple as they ripen.

HABITAT

A subtropical plant. It can grow in sun or shade. It needs moderate moisture. It will grow on most well-drained soils. It cannot tolerate frost. Melbourne Botanical gardens. Hobart Botanical Gardens. It suits hardiness zones 8-11.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

It needs a specific pollinator wasp for fruit. Where these occur it can be grown from seed. They can also become selfsown. It can be grown from cuttings and can spread from stem growth. It is often grown covering walls.

Harvesting and Seed Production

It is slow growing.

NOTES

There are about 800-1000 *Ficus* species. They are mostly in the tropics. There are 120 *Ficus* species in tropical America. It can be invasive.

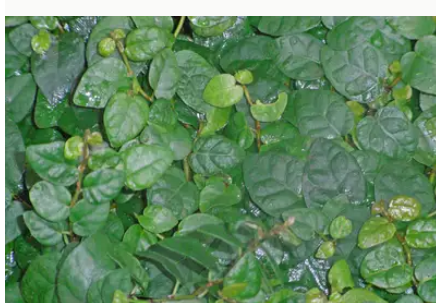
PICTURES



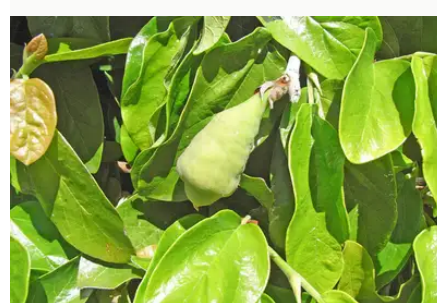
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