

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHEN CAN ONE EXPECT FRUIT?

High yielding delicious fruit will form on both old and new wood every year from mid-summer to late fall as far north Zone 5! In most cases you will get fruit the first season! Otherwise count on it early year two.

### MY PLANT FROZE OVER WINTER?

If temperatures go below 10F, you will need to prune main stem down until you reach solid wood. You may need to cut as much as four inches above soil. The best time to prune is early spring after the winter rest. They can take a light or hard pruning because fruit forms on both new and old wood. If temperatures dropped below a minus 10F the plant will need to be replaced.

### CAN THEY GROW INSIDE YEAR ROUND?

Not year round. The only time to have them in the home is in the winter months if you live where it goes below about 10F. They will drop old leaves in the home as new ones appear. No worry. Just give it a window. In the spring get them back outside.

### IS PRUNING NECESSARY?

If there is no frost damage there is no need to prune the main stem or branches. But let me say that when you lightly prune back the lateral branches it forces an abundance of new branches that is very exciting?

### OLD WOOD GROWTH VERSES NEW WOOD GROWTH?

Old wood will produce fruit in early summer for a couple months. New growth occurs simultaneously and will produce fruit in early fall.

## FIRST THINGS FIRST...

When your plant arrives from Roberta's, remove from the shipping box immediately.

Remove plastic bag and sleeve from around potted plant(s). Discard any packing material clinging to the leaves or soil. Pull away any yellow or brown leaves that may have occurred during transit. If you can not plant it into garden or larger pot within a few days, make sure it stays well watered.

When ready to plant, do the job as early in the day as possible to avoid extreme soil temperatures that prevent proper water uptake from the roots. Water them in well and whisper a few words of wisdom.

Thank you for your order!

Take your gardening experience to new heights by visiting Roberta's Unique Gardens in our brand shop on QVC.com. Our goal is to enhance your gardening enjoyment by providing you with top quality, leading edge perennials and annuals that are suitable for your garden and home with the best service imaginable.

Roberta's is a 4th generation family owned business and has been one of the leading commercial exhibitors at flower and garden shows for over 50 years in the U.S and abroad. We search the globe to find easy-to-grow plants that are unique in themselves or their variety making them nearly impossible to find elsewhere. Our passion and commitment continually asks the question, "What makes a better, unsurpassed, and more beautiful flower to behold?"

Working with growers and breeders from all over the world, Roberta's is able to bring you hard-to-find plants and new species that will be sweethearts for years to come. Our alliance with QVC since the late 1990's will continue to transform your garden into the garden of your dreams. "Partnering with QVC, we share a common vision that puts the customer at the top of the list!"

Thank you for bringing us into your home,

Eric, Kevin, and Koort Wallien



1-800-428-9726

Monday - Friday 9<sup>a.m.</sup> - 4<sup>p.m.</sup> Eastern

Thank you  
for bringing us to your home

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QVC  IN THE GARDEN

ROBERTA'S GARDENS  
PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Hardy 'Chicago' Fig  
(Ficus carica)



## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE:	Full to Partial
USDA HARDINESS ZONES:	5-11
PLANTING DISTANCE:	6-10 feet
MATURE HEIGHT/SPREAD: (including how long it takes to get to maturity)	Height: 6-8 feet in garden / 3-4 feet in containers Spread: 5-6 feet in garden / 3-4 feet in containers
PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS: (soil preparation, depth, which end is up, etc.)	Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water immediately. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. Plant in garden after the right temperatures stay above 45 degrees spacing about 6 feet. Dig holes and place them in their holes. Pack soil firmly around root ball. Water in well.

## PLANTING GUIDE

1 STEP	Unpack your plants immediately removing any packing material. Water immediately. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal and will take place as the plant grows.
2 STEP	Plant in garden after the night temperatures stay above 45 degrees spacing about 6 feet. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5-6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Pack soil firmly around root ball. Water in well.
3 STEP	For container culture, plant into larger 12 inch container with adequate drainage holes. Water in well You should place plants outside as soon as temperatures stay above 45 F°.
4 STEP	Plants prefer full sun though half day is sufficient. These plants respond to regular summer bi-monthly fertilizing with a balanced houseplant food.  These are hardy down to about minus 10 F° in garden and positive 10 F° in large pots.

## CONTINUING CARE

### NATURE ATTRACTION

Savor sweet dark mahogany fruit with rich red flesh with this 2 pc Hardy 'Chicago' Fig. Perhaps the most cold hardy fig ever discovered they will yield large amounts of fruit in the garden or dwarfed in containers. This long-lived plant is a must have heirloom.

### KEY TIPS

High yielding delicious fruit will form on both old and new wood every year from mid-summer to late fall as far north Zone 5! In many cases you will get fruit the first season! Otherwise count on it early year two.

### SHELF LIFE

Water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot.

### PLANT PREPARATION

Cut away any yellow or brown leaves or broken stems that may have occurred. This grooming is completely normal and will take place as the plant grows. Branching out will rapidly follow any pruning.

### POTTED PLANTS

Repot the plants into larger 12 inch pots separately. You can transplant gradually one pot size per year up to 20 inches in diameter.

### SOIL

If your soil is clayish amend it with a standard garden soil for adequate moisture retentiveness. In containers use bagged potting mixes for houseplants that will drain well. Most garden centers carry various brand names with perlite, vermiculite, soil and sand.

### GARDEN PREPARATION

Plant in garden after the night temperatures stay above 45 degrees spacing about 6 feet. Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and about 5-6 inches deep. Place them in their holes. Pack soil firmly around root ball. Water in well.

### PLANTING SPACING

If planting into the garden space them at least 6 feet apart. If planting into a container allow for adequate air ventilation on deck or patio.

### PLANT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

This variety will grow 2-3 feet per year up to maximum of 8 feet tall and 6 feet wide in the garden. In pots they grow according to pot size. Easy pickings!

### WATER

Water the plants thoroughly letting the excess water drain through the bottom of the pot. Be sure to keep excess water out of any tray underneath pot. Keep moist, during the spring and summer repeating twice a week all summer long. Water less in winter allowing the soil to dry a little.

### FERTILIZER

To promote more flowers and fruit use a well balanced fertilizer like Roberta's Flower Magic Plant Food (M7503) twice a month April through October. In winter there is no need to fertilize.

### LIGHTING

Full sun is best outside in summer. Otherwise a half a day of sun is sufficient. In the winter they are dormant.

### BLOOMING

Buds form on branch tips spring through summer. Flowers do not form.

### FRUITING

Fruiting will occur on both new and old wood mid-summer to late fall. In many cases you will get fruit the first season! Otherwise count on it early year two.

### TEMPERATURE ZONE 5 to 11

These are hardy down to about minus 10 F° in garden and positive 10 F° in large pots.

### WINTER SEASON

They are deciduous dropping leaves. Wood remains.

### PRUNING

If temperatures go below 10F, you will need to prune main stem down until you reach solid wood. You may need to cut as much as four inches above soil. The best time to prune is early spring after the winter rest. They can take a light or hard pruning because fruit forms on both new and old wood.

### HARVESTING

Pick figs when showing good color. Do not let over ripen on tree. Remove tough portion of stems from each fig and run under water.

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCE



Chicago Hardy Fig  
Shipped  
As Shown



Fig Plant  
2nd season



Established  
Fig Plant



Ripe  
Fig