

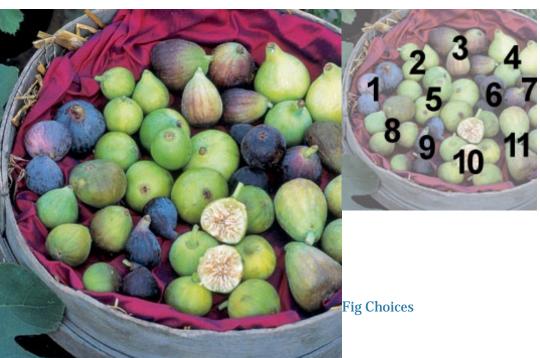
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RHS Journals

The Garden October 2008

Figs in the UK

Figs have an exotic, Mediterranean allure, yet can crop well in Britain.



Listed below are Ficus carica cultivars. 'Brown Turkey',

hardy and early-ripening, is the most widely grown in the UK, but there are better-flavoured choices:

1 'Rouge de Bordeaux': Purple fruits with red flesh of superb flavour, leaves less lobed than many. Crops twice in

a glasshouse.

2 'Tena': Small, sweet, yellow fruit. Prefers warmer, drier conditions than in much of the UK.

3 'Black San Pedro' (usually sold in Europe as San Piero, and sometimes called large Saint Peter fig): Black fruit, sweet red flesh of a good flavour. Makes a good vigorous garden tree.

4 'Alma': Light yellow skin, sweet, golden flesh, heavy crops of excellent flavour. Best in the longer growing season of a glass-house to develop the flavour.
5 'Goutte d'Or': Golden-yellow with rose flesh. A good historic cultivar for the glasshouse.
6 'Petite Nigra': Black skin with strawberry flesh, compact habit, ideal for pot culture. Small fruits.
7 'Black I schia': Often recom-mended but seldom crops well in the UK. Purple-black fruit, deep red flesh and a rich flavour. There are better elternatives.

flavour. There are better alternatives.

8 'Lisa': Large, rounded purple-brown fruit with red flesh. Hardy.

9 'LSU Purple': A relatively new cultivar (1991) with red-purple skin and red flesh. Smaller fruit than some but

good flavour. Com-pact habit, ideal for containers.

10 'White Marseilles' (syn. 'White Genoa'): Tried-and-tested heritage cultivar producing the best 'white' figs with sweet, juicy, amber flesh. Needs a garden wall or a warm spot in the North.

11 'Brunswick': Large fruit with pale red flesh. Hardy and reliable with attractive, deeply cut leaves.

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