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SunflowerMeg

August 28th, 2006, 12:40 PM

Hi Ya'll - I'm about to plunk down good money for a Kadota fig tree. Problem is I don't know a thing about growing them. We were at an auction a few days ago and the folks had this absolutely gorgeous fig tree - as big around as you can imagine. It was more like a bush, and it was loaded with figs.

I live in Zone 7, almost on the NC/SC border. The Kadota is cold hardy to 0 degrees F. A fig tree call a Tenn Mtn. fig is hardier than that, but the Kadota sounds a lot more intriguing. I guess it's what they use to make Fig Newtons.

Anyhow, what is all of your experiences with fig trees. I want to buy the 6-7 ft one and the nursery is asking in the neighborhood of \$150.00 plus 25% of that for shipping. :eek: If anyone has a cheaper, reliable source, I'm all ears. Also, your fig wisdom will be much appreciated. Thanks!

TastyofHasty

August 28th, 2006, 05:09 PM

If you know some people with a Kadota fig why not ask them for some branches to propagate over the winter? Check out the web for propagation info ... IT'S NOT HARD! I had a 50% success rate ... took 8 smallish branches ... 4 grew into trees. On my first try! (I think mine are Celeste variety.) \$150 plus shipping is a lot of money ... unless this Kadota is very hard to propagate(?) You don't have to graft (now that's hard IMHO).

Basically ...

- 1) wait till the tree has gone dormant (all the leaves drop off) (about December)
- 2) cut 8 to 10-inch branch tips about 1/2" or less thick (as many as you want or your neighbor will let you take)
- 3) bundle the branch tips, all pointing in same direction, together with string or a couple rubber bands ...
- 4) dig a hole in your garden about 1 foot deep and bury the fig branches in it; it should be mildly damp and can get quite cold. Mark the place so you can find it in a couple months. They are supposed to form a "callus" on the bottom over the next couple months.
- 5) Early spring (about February) prepare a big pot with potting soil about 10" deep ... not a bad idea to include a few of those water crystals in the bottom ... but not necessary.
- 6) Dig up the fig branches.
- 7) Plant them upright (top side up) with only 1 or 2 "nodes" (leaf bud spots) above-ground in your big pot. Most of the branch will be buried, almost to the bottom of the pot.
- 8) Water them before they completely dry out, wait and wait and wait. Around June or July some of them will start to leaf out. The leaves mostly come up from underground. Let the little trees form roots ... don't transplant too soon. By about August, transplant to individual pots or whatever you want to do with them.

Gary

August 28th, 2006, 05:57 PM

SunFlowerMeg, I grew up in Spartanburg. I remember playing under the fig tree which grew on my grandparents farm. It was huge with leaves forming an outer layer and the inside was a good

play area. I think some of the chickens even roosted on the branches protected by the canopy. If the tree you described is cold hard I am sure it would work in the mountains of NC. There should be folks in your area who might have suckers growing from one of their trees or pass along cuttings to root and grow. I have rooted them before with out any problems. They will grow a lot in one season. If you have a southern area near the house or an outbuilding it would get more protection there than on a northerly side.

Gary/Louisville

Gary

August 28th, 2006, 06:30 PM

*** Note that Kadota does best in hot and dry climate

Kadota (Dottato, Florentine, White Kadota)

Medium, skin is yellowish green, flesh amber, tinged pink at center. Flavor rich. Resists souring. Little or no breba crop. Tree upright, requires annual pruning to slow growth. Requires hot, dry climate for best quality.

Fig Tree Nursery at Ty Ty GA: Italian White Fig

<http://tytyga.com/figs/pg11.htm>

28 Figs Described

'Adriatic'

Alternate names: 'Grosse Verte', 'Italian Strawberry', 'Nebian', 'Ventura', 'Verdone Hybrid Strawberry', 'Verdone', 'White Adriatic'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; strawberry

Where it grows: Widely adapted. Grows and produces well in San Francisco area.

Description: This is an old variety that reliably bears two crops annually. Excellent fresh.

'Alma'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-brown; amber

Where it grows: Recommended for Texas and southeastern U.S. Requires a long warm season to ripen.

Description: Average-sized fruit is very sweet and has small seeds. Small, frost-sensitive tree produces a good spring crop and heavy main crop. Nearly closed eye resists fruit souring. New variety developed in Texas.

'Beall'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; amber

Where it grows: Similar to 'Brown Turkey', but sweeter. Good spring and summer crops.

Description: Figs large, somewhat flattened shape.

'Black Jack'

Alternate names: 'Black Spanish', 'Petite Negri'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; strawberry

Where it grows: Recommended for Texas and southeast.

Description: Large figs produced on a small tree that is well suited to container growing.

'Brown Turkey'

Alternate names: 'California Brown Turkey', 'San Pedro', 'San Piero'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; amber

Where it grows: Highly recommended for California and the Southwest.

Description: Average- to large-sized fruits have few seeds and are best fresh. Not recommended

for drying or canning, this is one of the few figs grown for fresh market. They have a moderately open eye so are prone to souring in humid regions. Small tree is hardy and productive with two crops a year.

'Celeste'

Alternate names: 'Blue Celeste', 'Celeste Violette', 'Celestial', 'Malta', 'Sugar Fig', 'Violette'

Skin and flesh colors: Strawberry-brown; strawberry

Where it grows: Very hardy and one of the most widely grown in the South. Often disappointing in the West.

Description: Use small- to average- sized, crunchy and juicy figs fresh, dried, processed, or in preserves. Fruits resist both splitting and souring. Tree produces no spring crop.

'Conadria'

Alternate names: 'Verdone', 'Verdone Hybrid'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; strawberry

Where it grows: Widely adapted. A hybrid developed in California.

Description: Average-sized figs are flavorful, crunchy, juicy, excellent fresh or dried. Fast-growing tree produces spring and summer crop.

'English Brown Turkey'

Alternate names: 'Eastern Brown Turkey', 'Everbearing', 'Texas Everbearing'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; strawberry

Where it grows: Recommended for cool summer regions such as coastal California and the Pacific Northwest. Also recommended for Texas and the Southwest.

Description: Average- to large-sized figs. Very productive and attractive tree.

'Excel'

Alternate names: 'Dottato Hybrid', 'Kadota Hybrid'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; amber

Where it grows: Widely adapted throughout California and the Gulf Coast.

Description: Compared with 'Kadota', figs larger and sweeter. Fruit resists souring by forming "honey drop" that plugs basal opening.

'Flanders'

Alternate names: 'Verdone Hybrid'

Skin and flesh colors: Violet stripes; amber

Where it grows: Widely adapted, producing well in both cool and hot regions.

Description: Average-sized figs are somewhat elongated. Tree vigorous.

'Genoa'

Alternate names: 'Genoa White', 'White Naples'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; amber

Where it grows: Best in cool summer regions such as coastal California and the Pacific Northwest.

Description: Average-sized figs are excellent fresh. The standard Italian fig.

'Hardy Chicago'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown-purple; strawberry

Where it grows: A somewhat more cold-hardy tree, it is recommended for the upper South and coastal Atlantic regions.

Description: Similar to 'Brown Turkey'. Small-sized tree is well suited to container culture.

'Jelly'

Alternate names: 'Mary Lane Seedless'

Skin and flesh colors: Yellow; amber

Where it grows: Best in regions of consistent weather and temperatures. In regions of weather extremes, fruits are prone to splitting.

Description: Very juicy, nearly seedless fruit. Modern variety developed in California.

'Kadota'

Alternate names: 'Dattero', 'Dottato', 'White Kadota'

Skin and flesh colors: Yellow-green; amber

Where it grows: Best in hot, dry regions, such as California's Central Valley. A leading commercial fig in California.

Description: Average-sized, tough-skinned, nearly se figs are used for canning, for drying, or eaten fresh. Vigorous, almost rampant tree is very productive in both spring and fall.

'King'

Alternate names: 'Desert King', 'White King'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; amber

Where it grows: One of the best varieties for coastal California and the Pacific Northwest. Also recommended for Gulf Coast regions.

Description: Use these large figs fresh or dried. Good spring and fall crops.

'Lattarula'

Alternate names: 'Blanche', 'Italian Honey', 'Lemon', 'Marseilles'

Skin and flesh colors: Yellow-green; amber

Where it grows: Widely adapted but best in short-season, cool-summer regions.

Description: High-quality, large and very sweet figs are excellent fresh, dried, or as preserves.

Gary

August 28th, 2006, 06:32 PM

FIG DESCRIPTIONS CONTINUED

'L.S.U. Purple'

Skin and flesh colors: Red-purple; amber

Where it grows: Developed in Louisiana and recommended for Gulf Coast region.

Description: These closed-eye figs resist souring. Tree is vigorous, cold-tolerant.

'Magnolia'

Alternate names: 'Black Naples', 'Brunswick', 'Brunswig', 'Dalmatia', 'Dalmatian', 'Large White Turkey', 'Madonna'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; amber

Where it grows: Widely grown in Texas and the Southwest.

Description: Souring-prone figs best for canning or preserves. Cold-hardy tree has distinctive hand-shaped leaves.

'Marseilles'

Alternate names: 'Blanche', 'Lemon', 'Marseillaise', 'White Marseilles'

Skin and flesh colors: Yellow; amber

Where it grows: Cool regions such as coastal California and the Pacific Northwest. Also Atlantic

Coast.

Description: Adapts well to containers.

'Mission'

Alternate names: 'Black Mission', 'California Black', 'Franciscan', 'Franciscana', 'Negra'

Skin and flesh colors: Purple-black; strawberry

Where it grows: Very widely adapted variety grows and produces well in most regions.

Description: All-purpose fig is used fresh, dried, and for preserves. Tree often produces both spring and fall crops.

'Nero'

Alternate names: 'Barnisotte', 'Brogiotto Nero', 'Ischia Black', 'Scavello'

Skin and flesh colors: Purple; strawberry

Where it grows: Grows well in most regions. More tolerant of cold than most fig varieties so recommended for marginal fig regions.

Description: This variety produces abundant crops of large figs at a young age.

'Osborn Prolific'

Alternate names: 'Archipel', 'Hardy Prolific', 'Neveralla', 'Osborn', 'Osborn's Prolific', 'Rust'

Skin and flesh colors: Reddish brown; amber

Where it grows: Generally regarded as superior for cool regions, hence recommended for coastal California and inland valleys of southern California and the Pacific Northwest. Also recommended for the Atlantic Coast.

Description: Large, very sweet figs are best used fresh. Slow-growing, dense tree bears heavily.

'Panachee'

Alternate names: 'Jaspee Limone', 'Panache', 'Striped Tiger', 'Variegato'

Skin and flesh colors: Yellow-green with stripes; strawberry

Where it grows: Needs long, warm growing season.

Description: Small- to average- sized figs have excellent fresh quality. Tree produces fall crop only.

'Pasquale'

Alternate names: 'Vernino'

Skin and flesh colors: Purple; strawberry

Where it grows: More cold-tender than average so recommended only for frost-free regions.

Description: Use these small, very sweet figs fresh or dried. Tree produces good spring crop; fall crop ripens late.

'Tena'

Alternate names: 'Tina'

Skin and flesh colors: Green-yellow; amber

Where it grows: Widely adapted, but especially well regarded in hot and dry regions.

Description: Figs are similar to 'Mission' but more rounded in shape. In some climates, figs will dry on the tree.

'Tennessee Mountain'

Alternate name: 'Celeste'

Skin and flesh colors: Brown; amber

Where it grows: Recommended throughout upper South and Atlantic Coast.

Description: Use figs fresh or for preserves. Tree bears heavy crops of sweet figs.

'Verte'

Alternate names: 'G Ischia', 'Ischia Green', 'New Verte'

Skin and flesh colors: Green; strawberry

Where it grows: One of the best for short-season, cool regions such as Pacific Northwest.

Description: Use these small figs fresh or dried. Tree is small, good for containers, and produces a spring crop. Ripe figs are less attractive to birds because they remain green.

'Violette de Bordeaux'

Alternate names: 'Beer's Black', 'Bordeaux', 'Negronne', 'Petite Figue Violette'

Skin and flesh colors: Purple-black; strawberry

Where it grows: Widely adapted.

Description: Small fig with excellent flavor. Small tree adapts well to containers.

<http://www.doityourself.com/stry/fabulousfigs>

Aaron's Fig Tree Nursery

<http://aaronscanna-amaryllis.com/fig/index.html>

fawnmeadow

August 28th, 2006, 09:08 PM

Have you personally used the TyTy Nursery? Prices seem to good to be true.

Gary

August 29th, 2006, 06:42 AM

"Have you personally used the TyTy Nursery? Prices seem to good to be true."

Ty Ty, Georgia is located in an adjoining state to western North Carolina. They would be able to offer her plants for growing in her growing zone. Their prices are very reasonable. They have an 800 number she can call for whatever information she might have.

I have not ordered from them.

Gary

SunflowerMeg

August 29th, 2006, 08:56 AM

Hi All ~ Actually, I have already talked with TyTy, GA. Their website says there is an assistant standing by to speak to, so I called them. I got some guy on a speaker phone who sounded like he was working and talking at the same time. He was very distracted, offered little information, and all I could here was a voice that sounded really far away. It was a rather frustrating conversation. He offered no useful info that wasn't already on their site, and I pretty much carried the conversation by asking and answering my own questions. HOWEVER, that is probably who I will order from because I haven't found anyone else, yet.

The reason I'm willing to pay the high price for the larger specimen (at least, I think it's a hefty price), is because it will produce next season. The smaller, cheaper specimens won't produce for a few years. Which is why I don't want to do the "cuttings" idea, which otherwise, is a good, cheap alternative. I will be dead by the time something becomes of those cuttings. :) I'm not getting any younger, ya' know? If I was 20 or 30, that would be one thing, but I wish to enjoy the fruits of my labor, so to speak.

From what I read, the TN MTN variety is just about guaranteed for this region. The Kadota is borderline. I guess it's a roll of the dice. Will have to rethink the strategy though, since I see some trees produce and spring and fall crop. Thanks for the great info everyone!

TastyofHasty

August 30th, 2006, 09:14 AM

Transplanted my little trees day before yesterday ... just in case anybody's interested ... here's a pic of the baby fig trees. These are from branches I cut off last December & propagated as per post above.

fawnmeadow

August 30th, 2006, 09:42 AM

Tasty, Those are beautiful small trees. I bet you'll get a few figs next year :)

SunflowerMeg

August 31st, 2006, 03:03 PM

Those are nice little fig trees Tasty! :) I'm jealous.

On second thought, I won't be ordering from TyTy. I went to 2 somewhat local nurseries yesterday and they sell fig trees for around \$80, but they are out of them until spring. So, I'm going to wait until spring. BTW, for our area, Brown Turkey and Celeste are the recommended varieties. The local nurseries sell trees that will produce the same year. So, that is exciting!

TastyofHasty

September 3rd, 2006, 11:54 AM

Thank you, thank you! (bow) :D

Now to get DH to understand that I have PROMISED them to two people ... he says I give too much stuff away! But I BELIEVE ... in "cast your bread upon the waters ... and it shall come back after many days" ! ... this bein' Sunday it is time to pontificate :o ... just read the story at the end of the book of John ... about Peter and John & somebody getting in a boat & going fishing ... Jesus (after resurrection) stood on the shore & called to them to fish on the other side of the boat & they would find fish ... they brought the huge catch to shore where Jesus was waiting with a charcoal fire & asked for some of the fish ... which they cooked with him.

point of the story is ... so many times in the Bible ... God gives ... & then He takes some of whatever he gave BACK ... which is Okay, considering it was He who gave it in the first place! Seems to be one of the "underlying principles," of "the way it works" or somethin!

(End of pontificating) ...

TastyofHasty

September 3rd, 2006, 11:57 AM

Oh yeah ... I know Home Depot used to sell fig trees in Louisiana for about \$8 or so ... I think I'll write the home company & suggest they start selling them FURTHER NORTH.

SunflowerMeg

September 4th, 2006, 07:36 PM

Of course, the bigger the trees, the more expensive. Tasty, what does \$8 buy? A twig? :)

HillsideDigger

September 4th, 2006, 08:31 PM

Theres a couple of very productive maybe 20 year old fig trees here on this place we inherited at 1600' in elevation in the NC foothills. I eat a handful of raw fruit each year and would like to start drying a few of these figs.

Fresh figs are softer than a grape without the skin.

fawnmeadow

September 4th, 2006, 09:20 PM

Meg, We have the Brown Turkey and they are so delicious! I recommend them highly.
Phyl

TastyofHasty

September 7th, 2006, 12:11 PM

What does \$8 buy? They USED to sell the baby fig trees in those black plastic pots that come in about two sizes ... EXPENSIVE & not-so-expensive. I think the \$8 one was the not-so-expensive one ... but still as I recall (this was quite awhile back!) it was mebbe 4' high(?)

I just picked what are nearly the last of the figs off our tree yesterday. (About a quart.) The last ones seem to have a tougher skin & take longer to ripen.

boizeau

December 27th, 2008, 11:34 AM

I grow figs in the Northwest, where 60 degrees is t shirt weather. I have the following varieties:

Desert King
Magnolia
Brunswick
Lattarula
Violet De Bordeaux

Thought I got a Conadria from "Lowe's", but it was mis labelled. Big tree but the name is ?

I'd love to find a few starts of Neverella, which is said to do very well up here.
So far, my best tree is the Magnolia, it is a small tree and very productive.

The Brunswick is the least productive, but the most beautiful plant.