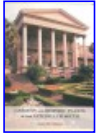




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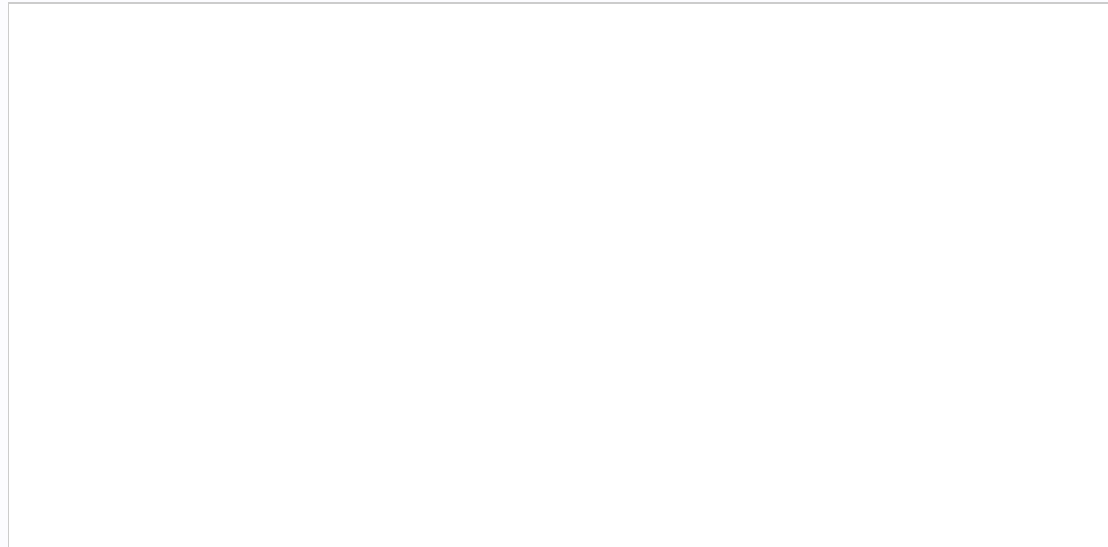


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Euonymus japonica arrived in North America around the middle of the nineteenth century, first being offered for sale by an American nursery when listed in Prince's 1844 *Catalogue of Trees, Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants*. It proved particularly valuable in antebellum gardens both as a specimen plant and as a fine evergreen hedge.

The Horticulturist, 1855

P. Barry and J. Jay Smith

↪ *Euonymus japonicus*—This is a splendid evergreen when planted in well-drained soil, otherwise the points of the young shoots will be destroyed during winter. The golden and silver variegated forms are equally hardy, and may be rendered very effective in composition.

The Southern Cultivator, 1856

Daniel Lee and Dennis Redmond, Editors

↪ *Euonymus japonica*

This fine evergreen deserves to be quite extremely cultivated in our gardens. Its up-right growth, bright green, glossy foliage, and easy culture, recommends it as an indispensable shrub, and its beauty still more increased in the autumn by means of its scarlet berries. While much has been said in favor of the Holly for ornamental hedges, the *Euonymus* is far superior to it in every aspect. . . . There are varieties of it with variegated leaves, but the color looks always dull and dingy, and whenever they are planted on rich ground and grow luxuriantly, it will change to the original color.

Robert Nelson, Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia

The Southern Cultivator, 1857

Daniel Lee and Dennis Redmond, Editors

↪ Ornamental Edgings and Hedges, for the South

Euonymus japonica

This shrub, rather too tender for the north, will unquestionably long become one of the most desirable plants for a southern ornamental hedge. As yet, it is only seen in solitary specimens as a brush, but whenever propagated in abundance, its dense compact form, beautiful glossy green color, and its quality of thriving well in any soil, will soon make it indispensable in every southern garden. It needs but very little trimming, as its natural form is somewhat tapering, and it will, if desired, form a hedge or screen, ten feet high. For the latter purpose, the plant may be set two feet apart; for smaller hedges one foot apart.

Robert Nelson, Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia

Ladies' Southern Florist, 1860

Mary Rion

↪ *Euonymus*

The foliage is a deep, shining green, of rapid growth, and suitable for hedges. The single plants require close and frequent pruning. The silver-edged is much the



Euonymus japonica (evergreen euonymus)

handsomer. It grows well from cuttings. No necessity for small plants to have roots, as they will grow without. Height, ten to fifteen feet. Seedlings change very much in character from the parent plant.

Ficus carica

Common Fig

A native of the Mediterranean region, *Ficus carica* or common fig is a large deciduous shrub or small tree reaching a height of fifteen to twenty feet. The fig is characterized by a broad, spreading form with multiple stems and deeply lobed leaves that are rough on the top and pubescent below. *Ficus carica* produces pear-shaped fruit both in late spring and in summer. The fruit ranges in color from green to shades of brown or maroon and can be eaten fresh, cooked, or dried. The fig is a long-lived plant, and although often killed to the ground during cold winters, its roots survive.



Ficus carica (common fig)

The Greeks and Romans were great cultivators of figs, and legend has it that the Athenians were so fond of the fruit that they forbade their exportation to other countries. According to tradition, the first fig tree was introduced into England in 1525. The earliest account of figs being grown in North America is found in the colonial records of Spanish Florida, which indicate that on April 2, 1579, Pedro Menendez, upon visiting Saint Augustine, observed, "There are beginning to be many fruits of Spain such as figs, pomegranates, oranges and grapes in great quantity." Figs were reported to have been grown in Virginia as early as 1621, when John Smith noted that figs "prospered exceedingly" after being introduced into Jamestown from Bermuda. Thomas Jefferson was an avid grower of figs often recording their dates

of harvest along with information on his favorite varieties.

Figs were first offered for sale by an American nursery when listed in William Prince's *1771 Broadside*. By the early part of the nineteenth century, figs had become a popular garden fruit, and in 1833 William Kenrick, author of *The New American Orchardist*, described over twenty varieties of figs suitable for American gardens. Because of their somewhat tender nature, figs were generally grown close to a house or outbuilding for winter protection. Figs planted during the antebellum period often have survived in the gardens and grounds of the lower and middle South.

The American Cotton Planter, 1854

N. B. Cloud, Editor

~*~ The Fig

The fig (*Ficus carica*) should be generally cultivated throughout the Southern or Planting States, on account of its healthy and magnificent dessert fruit. . . . The few

isolated varieties now in cultivation with Americanized names, induces me to furnish you with a correct description of a few of the rarest and most approved varieties of the fig. . . . Apropos—the Fig Tree delights in a light, rich soil, which is supplied with water within the reach of the roots. Its nature is to produce two crops in the year. The first crop, which is produced on the points of the shoots of last year; the second crop is produced on the shoots of the current year. Among the best varieties grown are the following: Brown Ischia . . . Black Genoa . . . Early White . . . Genoa, Large White . . . Black Ischia . . . Malta . . . Murray or Brown Naples . . . Blue or Purple . . . Naples, Large Black . . . Italian, Brown Naples, Brown Turkey, Brown Italian . . . Green Ischia . . . Brunswick, Hanover or Madonna . . . Marseilles, White Marseilles . . . Gentile . . . Lee's Perpetual . . . Ischia Small Brown . . . Ischia Yellow, Cyprus . . . Nerii . . . Peggussata . . . Small Brown Ischia.

The Magazine of Horticulture, 1855

C. M. Hovey, Editor

↪ Figs—This is the fruit of the South which we are certain of having one crop per annum; and if the spring is mild, the first crop matures in June, the second a reliable crop in August and September; as an extra hit of fructification they bear a third crop, but like the first, seldom mature, being cut off by early frost.

Andrew Gray, Savannah, Georgia

The Farmer and Planter, 1860

William Summer, Editor

↪ THE FIG AT THE SOUTH—Of all the fruits cultivated in the South, the fig requires the least care, and is one of the most productive and useful. South of the latitude of 32 degrees, the fig tree produces three crops a year, commencing in May and bearing until November, but in central Georgia we generally gather but two crops a year, unless the season is peculiarly favorable, the first or early crop being often killed by spring frosts. The figs are mostly eaten directly from the tree, as soon as ripe, and may be found in abundance upon the breakfast table of all lovers of fine fruit. The fig tree grows freely from cuttings planted early in the spring, and will sometimes bear the first year, generally the second. It has been a source of surprise to us that the fig is not extensively cultivated and turned to more profitable account; but this is not the only instance in which the prodigal and generous gifts of nature are lavished upon men in vain.

Firmiana simplex

(*Sterculea platanifolia*)

Chinese Parasol Tree, Varnish Tree, Maple Leaved Sterculia

Firmiana simplex, previously known as *Sterculea platanifolia*, was named in honor of Karl Joseph von Firmiana (1718–1782), an early governor of Lombardy, Italy. Native to China and widely grown in Japan, it is a fast growing deciduous tree with a tall erect trunk and smooth, gray green bark. *Firmiana simplex* is commonly known as Chinese parasol tree because of its large palmate leaves (measuring ten to twelve inches across) and rounded, umbrellalike canopy. Small petal-like flowers develop in spring, followed in late summer by decorative seed pods that usually contain only two or three seeds.

