

tall clover farm

At home on Puget Sound. Growing good things on Vashon Island.

• [front page](#)

• [about](#)

• [RSS](#)



• **Categories**

- [About](#)
- [Boz & Gracie](#)
- [Eating Well](#)
- [Fruit Canes: Raspberry](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Apple](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Cherry](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Fig](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Peach](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Pear](#)
- [Fruit Trees: Quince](#)
- [Grow Report](#)
- [Home Sweet Home](#)
- [How-To](#)

← [Goat Cheese and Bacon and Figs, Oh My!](#) [Blacktail Mountain: Hot Melon for a Cool Climate](#) →

Violetta Fig Finishes Out the Season

October 7th, 2008 · 6 Comments

- [Plants I Love](#)
- [Recipes](#)
- [Seasons | Spring](#)
- [Seasons | Summer](#)
- [Seasons | Winter](#)
- [Tomagrams](#)
- [Veggies](#)

• **Archives**

- [July 2009](#)
- [June 2009](#)
- [May 2009](#)
- [April 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [January 2009](#)
- [December 2008](#)
- [November 2008](#)
- [October 2008](#)
- [September 2008](#)
- [August 2008](#)
- [July 2008](#)
- [June 2008](#)
- [May 2008](#)
- [April 2008](#)
- [March 2008](#)

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Bayernfeige Violetta Fig fresh from the tree

(Big fig; that's a 10-inch dinner plate.)

Clogged gutters and one wet Tom welcomed October this week, and while I have some rock hard green figs that have no chance of ripening in the chilly downpours of recent storms, my Bayernfeige Violetta fig came through with a handful of juicy gems. A feat I don't take lightly, especially for a three-year-old tree shaded by a pair of healthy douglas firs.

Bayernfeige Violetta Fig: Good grower, productive after three years, does well in the cool summers of the Pacific Northwest, great flavor and good color. The skin is thin and flesh firm with nice texture. One of the most popular figs in the PNW is [Desert King](#), a green fig that is great for cooking and jams. I like the Violetta better for fresh eating, as the Desert King has a thick green skin and a softer flesh. Still good but I like the firmer texture of Violetta and for me, its richer flavor.

The [Violetta fig](#) was recently introduced from Germany and has several UK and US distributors. Oddly I found mine at grocery store, but I've seen in them at the West Seattle Nusery. [Negronne or Violette du Bordeaux](#) is my favorite fig here on Vashon, but Violetta is a very close second. They

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ripen about 3-4 weeks apart, so plant both and have a nice long season of figs.

Tags: Fruit Trees: Fig

6 responses so far ↓

Carol // Oct 15, 2008 at 1:25

1

I'd kill for a fresh plucked fig...An odd thing to say, maybe it was seeing those knives poised at your flock of watermelons.

Richard Hantz // Oct 22, 2008 at 1:25

2

How do you tell when the figs are ripe?

I have had the tree for 2 years now, still in a large container. There are about 16 good size green, hard figs on it.

It's in my greenhouse at the moment, but I plan to bring it inside my house very soon as it is getting much colder.

I bought it at a nursey in Issaquah.

Tom // Oct 22, 2008 at 1:25

3

Hi Richard, Figs have this convenient mechanism when ripe. The stem softens and the fig drops down on the branch, bowing to gravity. The fig itself also becomes soft and pliable in the coming days. Some even drip nectar (like Dessert King variety) but all will soften when ripe. How soft? Push the fatty palm part of your hand and that's about what's it's like. An unheated greenhouse may be the way to go; as the figs can ripen and the tree still gets the dormancy period it needs after harvest. A warm house may do more harm than good in the long run. Good luck.

Richard Hantz // Oct 24, 2008 at 1:25

4

I was thinking of putting the fig in the house until the fruit ripens, then moving it to my

unheated garage, which stays at 45-55 degrees.
I really appreciate your comments.

thanks,
Rick

Beth // May 30, 2009 at 1:25

5

I have a Violetta that is about two years old. I live in Seattle. The tree seems very healthy (about 3 feet tall). It's in a pot. It produces a few (this year, 7) figs and then, about two weeks later they fall off. Not sure what the problem is. The leaves look healthy. No sign of bugs. The figs just start to develop and drop. Any ideas? Thanks!

. Search It!

Tom // May 31, 2009 at 1:25

6

Beth fruit drop may occur because the tree was stressed at some point, perhaps our unusually cold winter (as some of mine fell victim to) or perhaps the pot dried out (even for a short time). I find that watering plays a vital role with all my fruit trees is our dry summer season. How you water this summer will affect the blossom/fruit output next spring. I love this site below as they love figs and sharing their knowledge of this relished fruit.

Figs for Fun: home <http://figs4fun.com/>
or basics page <http://figs4fun.com/basics.html>

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