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There are numerous varieties of figs, ranging from bush to tree, which have been treasured for their fruit for centuries throughout much of the Earth. Only a few of these varieties can be grown in the temperate zone of the Eastern United States. These are the domestic fig, *Ficus carica* that normally is grown as a bush.

The bush averages 6 to 10 feet + in height with about an equal spread. The deep green foliage and interesting leaves make figs an excellent accent plant or backdrop for smaller shrubs and perennials. Although figs have a distinctive and interesting appearance they are normally grown for their fruits which can be quite varied in taste.

Figs are exceptional hardy and trouble-free except for their lack of cold tolerance. They are not fussy as to soil type or growing location.

If temperatures do not go below zero figs can be grown in sheltered sunny areas. Placement of plants in an area that is sheltered on the south or west side in full sunlight is most desirable. Plants grown on the west side of our house in zone 6 have been unprotected for years with little damage to growth, but fruit crops are lessened. If figs are to be grown in zones 3-7 they must be

sheltered during cold periods or brought inside, if they are to be expected to fruit. They require no care or light during dormancy so protection is relatively simple.

Meet their simple requirements and you will enjoy a connoisseur's fruit for a lifetime. Figs are ready to harvest when the skin has turned dark brown and the fruit is slightly soft and comes off easily.



Our fig offerings:

Brown Turkey bears a large, rich, purplish-brown fruit with delicious, strawberry-pink flesh; mid-season. Zones 7-10

Celeste, known as the "sugar fig," produces medium-sized fruit with a light brown to violet skin and strawberry-pink flesh; early season. One of the best varieties for drying and preserves. Zones 7-10

Chicago Hardy, as the name implies, is one of the most prolific figs to grow in cold areas of the northern U.S. The fall fruits are born on the new canes that grow during the summer. A plant with four new stems can produce up to 150 purplish-brown figs of excellent flavor. Zones 6-10

LSU Purple bears small purple to burgundy figs of excellent flavor and high sugar content. Zones 7-10

Negronne is a dwarf cultivar ideally suited to the patio planting. It bears nearly black fruit with sweet, dark red flesh. It can bear two crops per year.