

Growing Greener

Sunday, August 20, 2006

The method for growing figs in Japan (with link to original site)



These photos of pruned, dormant figs are from a web site by [Ken Love in 2004](#). It basically looks like a modified espalier style of pruning the fig trees. He describes the Japanese method as (paraphrased from the linked site):

Young trees are grown to about 2 meters tall. They are then gradually lowered to a horizontal position, over a period of about 10 days. These cordons are then tied to horizontal supports, about 40 cm above the ground.



A pair of verticals can be tied in opposite directions; or 4 in an X pattern. The lateral's tips are pruned at a length of 2.5 to 5 meters.

During the dormant season, the vertical branches are pruned to 2 to 3 nodes each. When shoots appear, only the outermost shoot is kept. During Spring, shoots for fig production sprout from the horizontal limbs. These are pruned such that new upright cordons are 30cm to 50 cm apart, with 50 being considered optimal for production. The vertical shoots are tied to supports. Each vertical produces 18 to 20 fruit per season.

There are many more photos on the site; I could not find clear photos of figs in production stage. This looks like a nice method for back-yard production of figs, since it could be applied to a limited space.



Labels: [figus carica](#), [fig](#)

posted by Daniel at [7:24 PM](#)

2 Comments:

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Interesting post about the figs, and how they are pruned in Japan. I encourage people with limited space as well as those who just want more fruit to espalier, or keep fruit trees pruned small. We tend to let the trees get to big and then it's hard to prune, and harvest them. Here is an interesting link to "Back Yard Orchard Culture", which includes high density planting. [http://davewilson.com/](http://davewilson.com/homegrown/BOC_what-is.html)

[homegrown/BOC_what-is.html](http://davewilson.com/homegrown/BOC_what-is.html)

By  [trey](#), at [8:37 AM](#)

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Thanks for the coment. I like the Dave Wilson site too. It's very helpful for learning how to keep fruit trees small for a small yard, and the explanations are clear. It's worth reading.

By  [Daniel](#), at [3:23 PM](#)

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Living greener, "puttering meditaton" in the garden, the value of trees, being healthy, sometimes commuting by bike, growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers in a suburban sustainable "yarden", trying to be more earth friendly.



About Me

Name: Daniel

Location: Vancouver, Washington, United States



Each snowflake in an avalanche pleads not guilty. - Margaret Mead



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