

***Ficus carica***  
Edible fig  
Moraceae Family

***Compiled by the Master Gardeners  
of the University of Arizona Pima County Cooperative Extension.***

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**Edible fig on *Ficus carica***

**Form:** low-branching tree; usually single trunked  
**Seasonality:** deciduous  
**Size:** 15-30ft with equal spread  
**Leaves:** simple; 3-5 lobes; 4-10in long and 4-10 wide; rough, they can irritate skin  
**Flowers:** unimportant  
**Fruit:** edible figs; may bear twice per year  
**Stems/Trunks:** thick, knobby, irregular; gray bark  
**Range/Origin:** eastern Mediterranean and western Asia; in cultivation for centuries  
**Hardiness:** hard freezes will cause die-back

## LANDSCAPE VALUE:

- shade
- edible fruit
- fruit extremely attractive to birds



*Ficus carica*



leaf form

## CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS:

- **Exposure:** reflected sun, full sun, part shade
- **Water:** every month or two when growing; once or twice when dormant
- **Soil:** needs good drainage; gravelly soil
- **Propagation:** can be started from cuttings
- **Maintenance:** cleaning up fruit and leaves; pruning to tree shape if desired

## Research by Master Gardener Barbara Schneidau

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### NOTES:

There are many cultivars.

Can be messy due to fruit drop and bird activity.

Milky sap characteristic of family is poisonous.

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Web page design and photographs by Toni Moore, Master Gardener  
email to: [tmoore1@flash.net](mailto:tmoore1@flash.net)

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