Fiddle Leaf Fig

Ficus lyrata



Almost every indoor gardener has aspired to growing these beautiful trees. While they are a dream tree for some, they can be intimidating to beginners. With the right care and know-how, a Ficus lyrata can become a treasured part of your collection for years to come!

Characteristics:

Dimensions: In the wild these trees can grow up to 40 feet! Inside, however, your plant will likely stay between 3-8 feet.

Growth Habit: Available in both standard (one trunk that is bare at the bottom), bush (multi trunk), and column (one trunk with leaves all the way down).

Foliage: Glossy, dark green leaves that can grow up to a foot wide!

Hardiness: Ficus are tropical plants and must be protected from freezing temperatures. If you have a patio specimen, it will be best to move your specimen inside once temperatures are consistently into the 40s (F). They do not like being moved around a lot, so select your spot before the time comes so that you don't end up moving it again.

Toxicity: Ficus are considered toxic to pets. Coming into contact with the sap or eating the leaves can cause problems for dogs, cats, and sometimes humans. Select your spot carefully!

Care Requirements:

Light: Keep lyrata out of the afternoon sun. The best place is somewhere with HIGH indirect light and a little bit of direct morning sun. During the cooler months, they can tolerate a bit more sun.

Water: Keep your tree moist, but not soaked. Through rain or irrigation, aim to water when the top few inches have dried out. Overwatering can be detrimental to ficus. Fluctuations in watering can cause your plant to drop leaves.

Soil: Prefers relatively porous and freely draining soil. A peat based soil will help retain moisture and allow for less frequent watering.

Fertilizer: Don't overdo fertilizing. A liquid feed every 2-3 weeks in the spring and summer will benefit your plant; don't fertilize during the cold months.

Written by Lynsey Walmsley, Bedding House Lead

Pruning: Pruning is done mainly for aesthetic reasons. Create a bushier look to your plant by pinching the tips when it is young. Ficus generally are hard to root from cuttings, but it is not impossible. Take care to remember that they will lose large amounts of water through these huge leaves.

Uses:

- Indoor tree for bright light areas
- Great for patios that will stay cool in indirect light

In some cases, Ficus can take up to 6 months to adjust to a new home. They do not like changes to their environment and will drop leaves when sudden changes are made. If you move (or bring home) a new specimen, watch for leaf drop- but don't panic! Watch your tree for new growth. If you see new growth, just give it some time!

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