

## QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Full sun.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Winter hardy in-ground in zones 7 to 10. In zones 3 to 6, we recommend planting in a container so you can move the plant indoors before the first frost.
PLANT TYPE	Perennial.
PLANTING DISTANCE IN-GROUND	At least 8 feet apart.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 24-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	O'Rourke: 8 to 10 feet tall with a similar spread. Tiger: 10 to 12 feet tall with a 4 to 5 foot spread.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 to 24 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	Delicious edible fruit. Harvest from late summer to fall. Perfect for preserving or eating fresh.

## SOIL PREPARATION

We recommend having your soil tested periodically by your local County Extension Office ([www.nifa.usda.gov/extension](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/extension) or by calling 1-800-333-4636). A soil test can determine if your soil needs any amendments to enhance the growth and performance of your plants.

Ideal garden soil is easy to dig in and drains well while still holding the nutrients and water vital to plant growth. To prepare a bed for in-ground planting, spade or till the soil to a depth of roughly 12-18 inches. Next, spread a 2-4 inch layer of organic matter such as compost, shredded leaves or peat moss over the soil and mix well.

## Thank you for your order!

Figs are delicious when eaten raw or used in jellies, preserves and desserts. These self-pollinating varieties have long, tapered necks and partially closed eyes that helps prevent early decay caused by moisture and pests. Figs tolerate salt and thrive in acidic soil, making them perfect for seaside gardens and coastal areas.

**Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.**

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.  
1-800-222-1222**

## FIG



**\*Image on cover is representative of the type of plant(s) in this offer and not necessarily indicative of actual size or color for the included variety.**

## OUT OF THE BOX

### FIG

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. We urge you to remove it from the shipping box and plant it as soon as possible. Should planting be delayed due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, roll the plastic bag down around the plant and place it near a bright window or other sunny location. Keep it well-watered in its pot until permanently planted. Once planted, it will begin setting roots and, as the weather warms, begin showing new growth. Please plant as soon as possible, provide reasonable care and be patient.

The foliage on potted plants may appear slightly wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is usually nothing to worry about. Water the plant thoroughly, place it in a shady location and remove any foliage that does not recover.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

In zones 3-6, we strongly recommend planting your fig in a container in order to properly protect it from winter damage.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

1. Remove and discard the clear plastic bag from around the pot.
2. After watering, remove the pot by holding the plant upside down in one hand and squeezing the sides of the pot with the other.
3. Prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork, or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. This will encourage the roots to begin growing outward into the new soil.

## PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS (Continued)

4. Dig a hole twice as deep and twice as wide as the plant's root ball. Partially backfill the hole with soil and place the plant into the hole. The top of the root ball should be level with the ground surrounding the hole. Refill the hole with soil, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.

5. Water thoroughly.

## CONTINUING CARE

WATERING	Adequate and consistent watering is essential during your plant's first year in the garden. Infrequent, long soakings of water that thoroughly saturate the soil are more effective than frequent, light applications of water.
	Due to variable geographical and environmental conditions, a specific watering schedule is difficult to define. However, as a rule of thumb, you should not allow the soil or the original root ball to completely dry out. During the first summer, you may need to water as often as every few days in periods of drought and extreme summer heat. To determine if your plant needs water, dig a few inches into the soil next to the plant. If the soil is dry 2-3 inches below the surface, it is time to water.
	Overwatering can be as damaging as under watering. Be sure that the area surrounding your plant has adequate drainage to move water away from the plant. If you choose to plant in a container, always select one with drainage holes to prevent your plant's roots from sitting in water.
MULCHING	Apply a 2-4 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic matter around your plants to promote moisture retention, maintain even soil temperatures and discourage weed growth. Replenish the mulch as needed.
FEEDING	Feed your plant once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer for fruits and vegetables. Discontinue fertilizing by <u>September 1st so your plant can prepare for winter</u> .

## CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

HARVESTING	Harvest figs when they have turned from green to yellow with green stripes. Figs do not continue ripening once they have been picked, so avoid harvesting until they are fully ripe. When the fruits are ripe, they should feel soft and hang down rather than standing perpendicular to the branch. Gently pull the fruit from the plant, handling it as little as possible to avoid bruising it. After picking, store the figs in a refrigerator and do not wash them until you are ready to use them. The sweet, nutritious fruits can be eaten fresh, preserved or used for cooking. <u>Do not consume any other part of the plant.</u>
PRUNING	In late fall or winter of the first year after planting, choose four to eight strong, evenly spaced branches to form the basic framework of the plant. Remove any other branches to allow the plant to devote its energy to the selected branches.  In years following, thin any branches that become overlapped and cut each main branch back by about one third of its length in late fall or winter. Remove any main branches that have become unproductive to allow them to be replaced by new wood. Dead or damaged wood may be removed at any time to maintain a healthy plant and an attractive appearance.
WINTERIZING	In zones 7-10, figs may be left in the ground during winter. If freezing weather is expected, protect the roots by mounding a 6-8 inch layer of shredded bark, compost, leaves, straw or other organic material around the base of the plant. Potted figs should be moved into a protected area on exceptionally cold nights.  In colder zones (3-6), figs should be grown in containers and moved to a cool, dark, protected area that does not freeze for winter. Allow the plant to enter dormancy and lose most of its leaves before bringing it indoors.  Watering should be reduced significantly while the plant is indoors. Do not overwater or allow your plant to sit in water.  In spring after the threat of freezing weather has passed, remove mulch from in-ground plantings and move containerized plants back outdoors for the summer.