

Fig Tree Care Guide (*Ficus carica*)

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Potted or Planted - Grow Sweetly in the Desert

Quick Facts

- Sunlight: Full sun (6-8 hrs/day)
- Hardiness Zones: 7-10
- Drought Tolerant: Yes (once established)
- Fruit Bearing: 1-2 years in pot, 2-3 years in ground
- Size: 5-10 ft in pots, 10-25 ft in ground

In-Ground Planting

- Soil: Well-draining sandy or loamy soil. Avoid heavy clay.
- Watering: Deep water weekly during first year. After established, every 10-14 days in hot weather.
- Spacing: At least 10-15 feet from other trees or structures.
- Fertilizing: Compost in early spring. Light feeding of 5-5-5 if needed.
- Pruning: Prune in winter. Remove suckers and shape for airflow and sun penetration.

Container Growing

- Pot Size: Start with 15-20 gallon. Ensure drainage holes.
- Soil Mix: Cactus mix or a sandy potting blend with perlite.
- Watering: 2-3 times per week during heat. Let soil dry 1-2" down.
- Winter: Protect from frost or bring indoors if zone < 7.
- Fertilizing: Monthly with balanced organic fertilizer during growing season.
- Repotting: Every 2-3 years to refresh soil and root prune.

Pro Tips

- Use mulch to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- Figs don't need pollination-most desert-adapted varieties are self-fruitful.
- Protect ripening fruit from birds with netting or mesh bags.
- Fig leaves are latex-rich-wear gloves when pruning if sensitive.