

North Carolina  
Extension Gardener  
Plant Toolbox

[Home](#) [Find a Plant](#) [Identify a Plant](#) [Design Gallery](#) [Help](#) [Give Now](#) [Contact](#)

Search



## *Ficus carica* 'Brown Turkey'

Common Name(s): Brown Turkey Fig; Fig Tree

### Phonetic Spelling

FY-kus KAIR-ih-kuh

**⚠ This plant has low severity poison characteristics.**

[See below](#)

### Description

This is one of the most popular figs grown in the United States. It needs protection in winter when the temperature drops below 10 degrees. There is little maintenance needed.

Heat tolerant and self-pollinating. Leaves and sap can irritate the skin.

VIDEO Created by Elisabeth Meyer for "[Edibles, Bulbs, and Houseplants](#)" a plant identification course offered in partnership with [Longwood Gardens](#).

[More information on \*Ficus carica\*.](#)



Fruit and leaves  
Doug McAbee  
[CC BY-NC 2.0](#)



leaves, branches, and fruit  
Acabashi  
[CC BY-SA 4.0](#)

Cultivars / Varieties:



fruit and leaves in summer in Moore County  
Susan Strine  
[CC BY 2.0](#)



Fruit  
Photo by madika  
[CC BY-NC 2.0](#)



Fruit pulp  
Photo by Forest and Kim Starr  
[CC BY 2.0](#)



leaves in summer in Moore County  
Susan Strine  
[CC BY 2.0](#)



Form  
Forest and Kim Starr  
[CC BY 2.0](#)

Attributes:

**Genus:**

Ficus

**Species:**

carica

**Family:**

Moraceae

**Uses (Ethnobotany):**

Edible fruit provided food source for Native Americans.

**Life Cycle:**

Woody

**Country Or Region Of Origin:**

E. Mediterranean to Central Asia

**Wildlife Value:**

Provides food source for birds and small mammals.

**Play Value:**

Edible fruit

Wildlife Food Source

**Particularly Resistant To (Insects/Diseases/Other Problems):**

Heat tolerant.

**Edibility:**

The mild and sweet fruit is good eaten fresh or dried.

**Dimensions:**

Height: 10 ft. 0 in. - 30 ft. 0 in.

Width: 10 ft. 0 in. - 30 ft. 0 in.

Whole Plant Traits:

**Plant Type:**

Edible

Shrub

**Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics:**

Deciduous

**Habit/Form:**

Erect

Multi-stemmed

Rounded

Spreading

**Growth Rate:**

Rapid

**Maintenance:**

Low

**Texture:**

Coarse

Cultural Conditions:

**Light:**

Full sun (6 or more hours of direct sunlight a day)

**Soil Texture:**

High Organic Matter

Loam (Silt)

**Soil pH:**

Acid (<6.0)

Neutral (6.0-8.0)

**Soil Drainage:**

Good Drainage

Moist

Occasionally Dry

**Available Space To Plant:**

12-24 feet

**NC Region:**

Coastal

Mountains

Piedmont

**USDA Plant Hardiness Zone:**

6a, 6b, 7b, 7a, 8a, 8b, 9a, 9b, 10b, 10a

Fruit:

**Fruit Color:**

Brown/Copper

Gold/Yellow

Purple/Lavender

**Fruit Value To Gardener:**

Edible

**Display/Harvest Time:**

Fall

Summer

**Fruit Length:**

1-3 inches

**Fruit Width:**

1-3 inches

**Fruit Description:**

The small fruit ripens in July. The fruit has bronze skin and amber pulp, tastes mild and sweet.

Flowers:

**Flower Color:**

Brown/Copper

Purple/Lavender

**Flower Inflorescence:**

Insignificant

**Flower Bloom Time:**

Spring

**Flower Size:**

< 1 inch

**Flower Description:**

The flowers are unisexual and minute. Borne in leaf axils. Most commercially available figs are self-pollinating but wild figs require pollination by wasps.



Leaves:

**Woody Plant Leaf Characteristics:**

Deciduous

**Leaf Color:**

Brown/Copper

Green

**Leaf Feel:**

Leathery

Rough

Smooth

Soft

**Leaf Value To Gardener:**

Showy

**Deciduous Leaf Fall Color:**

Brown/Copper

Gold/Yellow

**Leaf Type:**

Simple

**Leaf Arrangement:**

Alternate

**Leaf Shape:**

Palmatifid

**Leaf Margin:**

Entire

Lobed

**Hairs Present:**

No

**Leaf Length:**

> 6 inches

**Leaf Width:**

3-6 inches

**Leaf Description:**

Large, thick, green leaves are 5-10 inches long and 4-7 inches across and deeply, palmately lobed with

three or five lobes. The upper surface is green and rough with hairs and the underside is paler and smooth.

Bark:

**Bark Color:**

Light Gray

**Surface/Attachment:**

Ridges

Smooth

**Bark Description:**

Silver gray smooth bark becomes more bumpy with age.

Stem:

**Stem Color:**

Brown/Copper

**Stem Is Aromatic:**

No

**Stem Bud Terminal:**

Only 1 terminal bud, larger than side buds

**Stem Form:**

Straight

Landscape:

**Landscape Location:**

Container

Recreational Play Area

**Landscape Theme:**

Children's Garden

Edible Garden

Pollinator Garden

**Attracts:**

Pollinators

Small Mammals

Songbirds

**Resistance To Challenges:**

Heat

Salt

**Problems:**

Contact Dermatitis

Problem for Cats

Problem for Dogs

Problem for Horses

Poisonous to Humans:

**Poison Severity:**

Low

**Poison Symptoms:**

Phytophotodermatitis from the white, milky sap.

**Poison Toxic Principle:**

Furanocoumarins

**Causes Contact Dermatitis:**

Yes

**Poison Part:**

Sap/Juice