

Ficus species

Figs are one of the largest Genus of all plants with something like 100 different species known. As would be expected with a family this large there is some variation in propagation methods for individual species that may produce superior results, but generally the same technique applies to the whole family.

Propagation

PRE-TREATMENT – Propagation is best from fresh seed. No pretreatment is required.

WHEN TO SOW – In warm areas or greenhouse at any time. In frost prone areas after danger of frost has passed.

WHERE TO SOW – Grow in full sun in light or medium well drained soils.

SOWING – Fill a pot or seed tray to within 2.5cm of the top with moist good quality seed raising mix, sow the seeds on the surface and compress lightly. Seed is very fine and even distribution can be best achieved by first mixing the seed with fine sand to bulk it up.

It is not necessary to cover the seed – just sprinkle it across the surface of your media. Keep the media moist but not wet, watering from below can be an advantage in maintaining even moisture and reducing seed disturbance also reducing the risk of fungal infections. Cover with clear polythene to increase heat and humidity. Best germination comes with daytime heat being maintained in the early to mid 20's until sprouting starts. If you can apply bottom heat, this is a plus. Place in warm shaded position to germinate – 2 - 3 weeks. Take care to avoid damping off and be prepared to apply a light application of fungicide to combat damping off should it occur.

CULTIVATION – Prick out individually into a forestry tube when large enough to handle – figs grow rapidly and develop quite deep roots so the depth of these tubes is a definite advantage. Plants can be maintained in their tubes for considerable time but should be repotted once the roots start to grow through the base of the tube. Apply light applications of slow release organic fertiliser fortnightly – figs are heavy feeders and protect from slugs and snails.