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FIG PRODUCTION IN THE SOUTHEAST

Presented by
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Fig Trees

- **15 – 30 feet tall**
- **Shallow root system**
- **Soil pH 5.5 – 7.5**
- **8 hours sunlight**
- **Subtropical**

Fig Spacing

- **Bush – 10 feet by 15 feet**
- **Tree – 15 to 20 feet by 20 feet**

Fig Requirements

- **Soils – drainage generally not a factor.**
- **Pollination - not a factor.**
- **Pruning – no rigid requirements.**
- **Rootstocks – propagated from cuttings.**
- **Fruit Maturity – specific to cultivar.**

FIG SOIL TYPE VS TIME OF PRODUCTION

- **Heavy soils (Celeste) – remains in the juvenile state longer, hence production delayed (5-6 years).**
- **Loam soils – suitable production in 4 years.**



Fig Tree Form



Fig Bush Form



**Figs: subtropical
limited by freezes**



Comparison of cold Injury among Six Fig Varieties

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Cold Injury rating</u>
• 'Celeste'	4.5
• LSU Gold	4.2
• 'Hardy Chicago'	3.5
• 'Magnolia'	2.5
• LSU Purple	1.0
• Florentine	1.0

RATINGS BASED ON A SCALE OF 1 TO 5; WITH 5 SHOWING NO INJURY AND 1 KILLED TO GROUND LEVEL

HARDY CHICAGO

- **Synonyms – none**
- **Fruit – small to medium, small eye**
- **Skin and Flesh colors – blackish-purple; strawberry**
- **Plant – good cold tolerance**





BROWN TURKEY

- **Synonyms – Southeastern Brown Turkey, Eastern Brown Turkey, English Brown Turkey, Everbearing and Texas Everbearing**
- **Fruit – small to medium; medium open eye**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – bronze; amber to pink**
- **Plant – good cold tolerance**



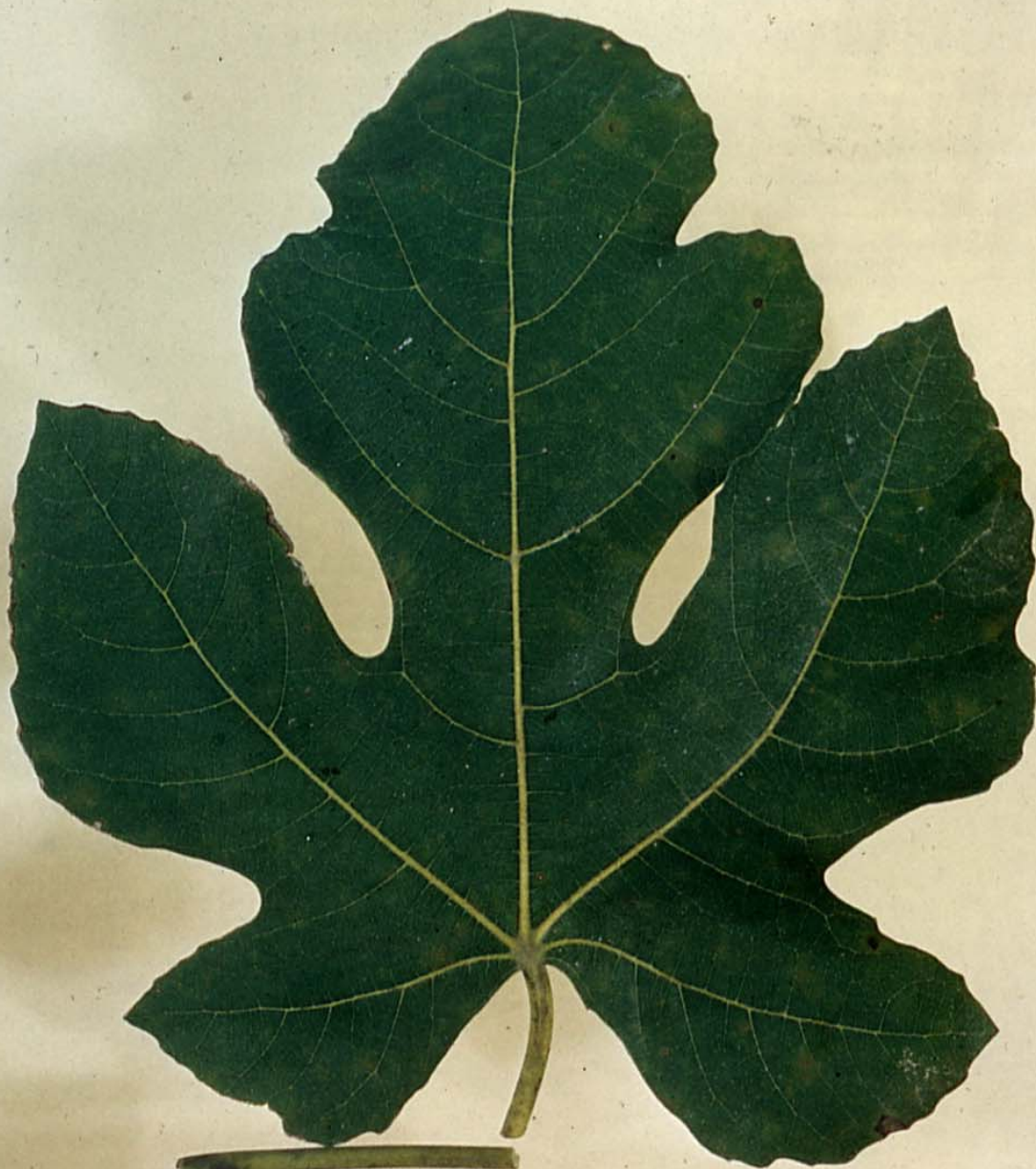
HUNT

- **Synonyms – none**
- **Fruit – small to medium**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – bronze; amber**
- **Plant – fair cold tolerance, shy bearer, adapted to rainy areas of the south**



CELESTE

- **Synonyms – Celestial , Celeste Violette, Sugar, Small Brown, Malta and Blue Celeste**
- **Fruit – small, closed eye**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – strawberry-brown; strawberry**
- **Plant – good cold tolerance**



CELESTE



LSU PURPLE

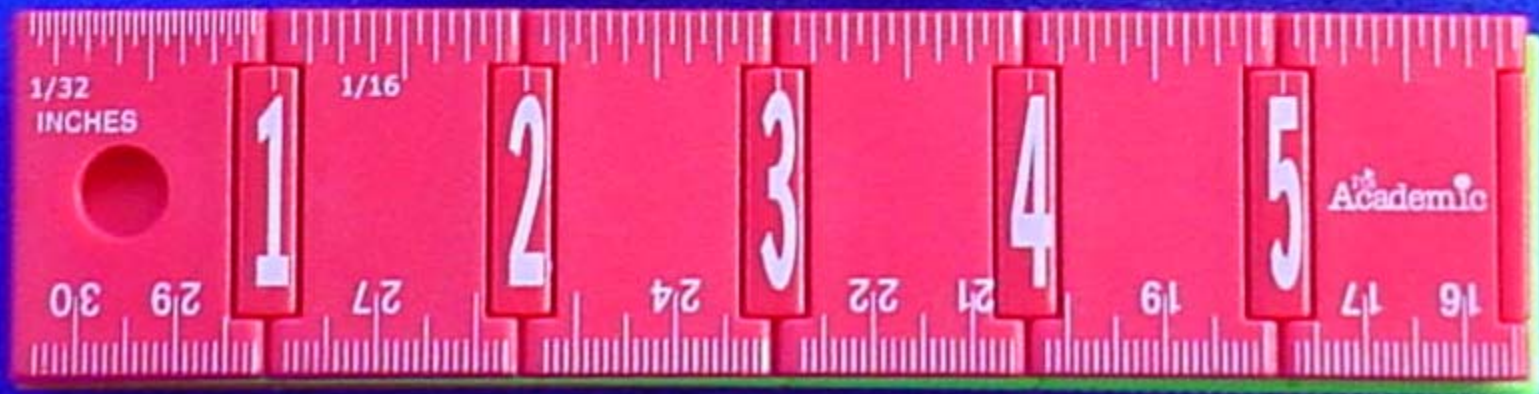
- **Synonyms – None**
- **Fruit – medium, closed eye**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – red-purple; amber to pink**
- **Plant – poor to medium cold tolerance, rebounds from winter freezes, good leaf disease resistance, produce three distinct crops**



LSU GOLD

- **Synonyms – none**
- **Fruit – large, eye medium open and self sealing**
- **Skin and Flesh colors – yellow; light red to light pink**
- **Plant – good cold tolerance, harvest fruit immediate on ripening**





ALMA

- **Synonyms – none**
- **Fruit – medium; medium open eye sealed with gum**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – green-brown; amber**
- **Plant – poor to moderate cold tolerance, very productive, no breba crop, late season fig**

MAGNOLIA

- **Synonyms – Brunswick, Dalmatian and Madonna**
- **Fruit – medium to large, open eye, lopsided fruit**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – brown; amber**
- **Plant – poor cold tolerance, fruit often splits and sours if left on tree till ripe**

KADOTA

- **Synonyms – Florentine, Honey Fig, Dottato, Dattero and White Kadota**
- **Fruit – medium, open eye**
- **Skin & Flesh colors – yellow-green; amber**
- **Plant – poor cold tolerance, fruit often splits and sours before ripening, main crop two weeks after Celeste**



HARDY CHICAGO



MAGNOLIA



LSU GOLD



LSU PURPLE



FLORENTINE



CELESTE

Fertilizing Figs

- **Mature trees – Shoot growth 12 to 18 inches**
 - 4 to 6 inches of mulch per year
 - 1 pound 8-8-8 per year of age (max 10 pounds)
 - 1/2 pound 8-8-8 first year trees

COMMON CAUSES FIG FRUIT FAILURE:

- **Fruit drops when 1/3 to 2/3 full size:**
 - requires pollinator – incorrect variety.
- **Leaves drop prematurely, fruit withers:**
 - fig rust or other leaf spot diseases, or twig blight.
- **Tree growth is poor. Roots have galls.**
 - root knot nematode damage.

FRUIT DISORDERS

- **Dry, leathery fruit – hot dry weather, particularly Celeste.**
- **Splitting – fluctuating moisture conditions.**
- **Souring – open eye, contamination by insects, excessive rainfall.**

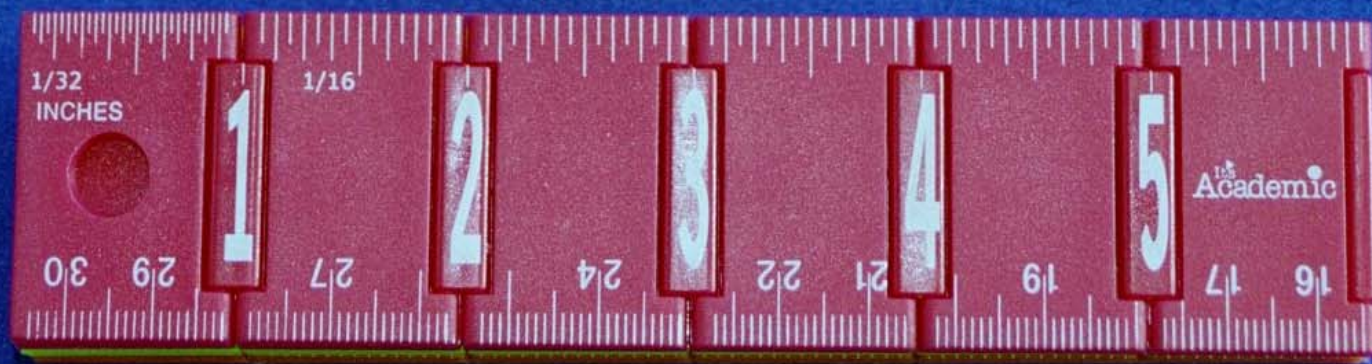
















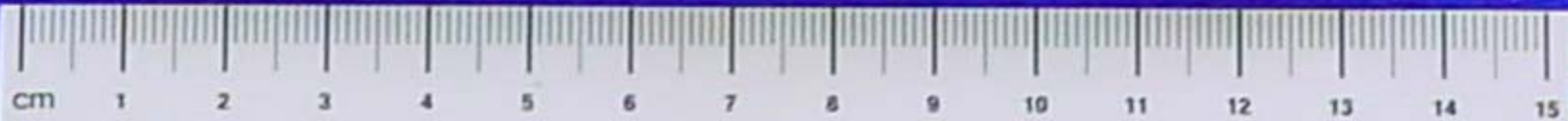
FIG LIMITATIONS

- **Labor for harvest**
- **Freeze outs**
- **Fruit markets**
- **Pesticides unavailable**









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