



## **FIDDLE LEAF FIG PLANT • FICUS LYRATA**

A Ficus Lyrata, or as it is commonly called a Fiddle Leaf Fig, has large wide leathery leaves that resemble a violin or fiddle. These dark green hard leaves on a Fiddle Leaf Fig are over a foot in length and grow on woody stems. The Ficus Lyrata, native to Australia, Melanesia, and Southern Asia, is one of the easier ficus trees to care for. This plant can be small enough to use as a table plant or large enough to be used as an indoor tree.

### **CARE**

#### **LIGHT**

A Fiddle Leaf Fig requires bright indirect light. In low light, new leaves are small and mature leaves may fall off. Turn a Fiddle Leaf Fig frequently to keep it from growing toward the light and becoming lop-sided. Too much bright light causes the leaves to fade and lose their dark green color.

#### **WATER**

A Fiddle Leaf Fig requires less water than other ficus trees. Allow the top 50% of the soil to dry out and the leaves to become soft and flexible before watering. Keep the leaves dry and water off of the large fiddle shaped leaves to prevent mold. Too much water and water on the leaves can also cause ugly brown spots on the leaves.

#### **FERTILIZER**

Fertilize monthly in the spring and summer with a basic houseplant food diluted to 1/2 the recommended strength. Too much fertilizer, when the plant is not actively growing causes leaf tip burn.

#### **TEMPERATURE**

Fiddle Leaf Fig do well in temperatures between 60°-80°F. Keep all types of ficus trees away from air conditioners, cold drafts, and heating vents. Intense cold or heat causes leaf drop.

#### **HUMIDITY**

This plant does well in normal household humidity through it prefers high humidity.

#### **PESTS**

The broad leaves of a Fiddle Leaf Fig attract mealy bugs, thrip, whitefly, spider mites, and aphids. Spray every other week with warm soapy water to ward off plant pests. Spraying a Fiddle Leaf Fig also keeps the large leaves dust free and clean so they can absorb more light. Dry leaves after spraying.

#### **DISEASES**

Powdery mildew, root rot, and leaf spot disease

#### **SOIL**

Use a well-aerated potting soil that holds water but still drains quickly.

#### **POT SIZE**

Fiddle Leaf Figs like all ficus plant like being root-bound in small pots.

#### **PRUNING**

If a Fiddle Leaf Fig (Ficus Lyrata) gets too tall, gently remove it from its pot and trim the roots. Trimming the roots limits how tall the plant grows. Root trimming a ficus plant can be done every few years during winter and fall. Cutting the stems back in the early spring encourages a ficus to become bushier.

#### **PROPAGATION**

Propagate using air layering and stem cuttings.