

Ficus nitida

(Cuban Laurel)

Ficus nitida or F. microcarpa 'Nitida' is an evergreen broadleaf fig from East Asia. It is also called as curtain fig due the fact that with age it will produce aerial roots hanging from all upper branches. Usually they are pruned off. The flower is hidden in the future fig fruit which will turn pink, red and later black. Very messy when it droops all the fruit. It has also a very aggressive root system which can break easily sidewalks. The tree does well in full sun and very resistant to drought, salt and urban pollution. Once it's planted as a street tree it needs continuous maintenance and pruning. Listed as invasive species in many countries.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

Arabic Name: فيكوس ميكروكارپ

Plant Type: Tree

Origin: East Asia, Australia, and the South Pacific

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Hedge, Specimen, Shade, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Spreading

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Dense

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: Over 23

Spread at Maturity: Over 15 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate
Leaf Venation: Pinnate
Leaf Persistence: Evergreen
Leaf Type: Simple
Leaf Blade: Less than 5
Leaf Shape: Oval
Leaf Margins: Entire
Leaf Textures: Glossy, Medium
Leaf Scent: No Fragrance
Color(growing season): Green
Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: False

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Generally resists breakage

Number of Trunks: Multi-Trunked, Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Red, Black

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Good

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Low

Light Requirements: Full, Part

Management

Toxity: No

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: No

Pruning Requirement: Little needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: Yes

Surface Rooting: Yes

Life Span: More than 50

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations:

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Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image