



INDOOR PLANTS

Fiddle Fig Leaf

Ficus lyrata

Ficus lyrata, commonly known as the fiddle leaf fig, belongs to the large and diverse *Ficus* family. Grown indoors for its large green leaves, the fiddle leaf fig can make a stunning statement plant.

They are one of the larger growing indoor species, that with the right conditions can reach the ceiling! If this sounds a little concerning, they can be kept smaller and more compact with pruning.

How to grow:

They are best grown inside in a well-lit spot or outside in a sheltered position. Keeping them near windows will ensure the plant is getting enough light. A little bit of sunlight in the morning is good, but keep in mind during the summer months that foliage accustomed to the shade will scorch in the hot sun. Avoid areas with environmental fluctuations, such as near air conditioners or heaters.

Ficus prefer to be kept on the drier side. Wait for the top half of the potting mix to become dry before watering and make sure the pot isn't sitting in water. If this is the case, lift the pot and sit it on pot feet to allow better drainage. A good way to determine whether the plant needs watering is to check the soil and take note of what the leaves are doing.

If the leaves look rigid and sit upright then the plant is happy, but if they are drooping slightly and feel soft (accompanied by completely dry soil) then it is time to water. Fiddle leaf figs will naturally drop leaves, but excessive yellowing and leaf drop can indicate too much water or not enough light.

It is recommended that *Ficus* varieties are grown in pots, as they have invasive root systems that can interfere with paving, pipelines and foundations. When potting a fiddle leaf fig, choose a potting mix with good drainage. Mixing perlite or peat moss into the soil can help to improve drainage.

Applying a liquid fertiliser during the warmer months will keep the plant growing and looking lush.

They will benefit from a regular wipe down of their large, broad leaves which can collect dust. This keeps them breathing, looking shiny and helps you to keep an eye out for pests. Rotating the pot will ensure that your plant grows evenly, as they tend to reach towards the light.