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
Figs: subtropical limited by freezes
## Comparison of cold Injury among Six Fig Varieties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Cold Injury rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Celeste’</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU Gold</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Hardy Chicago’</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Magnolia’</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU Purple</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florentine</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
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
Fruit, 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)
- ½ 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.
Cercospora of fig
FIG LIMITATIONS

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