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Front Lines

4/30/2026

Year Of … Ficus

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In this space we'll highlight each of the National Garden Bureau's (NGB) Year Of … plants. They're chosen because they're easy to grow, popular, genetically diverse, widely adaptable and versatile. Visit NGB.org for free downloadable promotional materials, growing tips and more.



Customers know many of these plants intimately by name: Audrey, Benjamina, Rubber Plant and, of course, the ubiquitous Fiddle Leaf Fig. According to NGB, the ficus genus is wildly diverse, and even includes climbing vines and epiphytes (plants that grow on the surface of another plant, like orchids). Basic types include: *F. altissima, F. benghalensis, F. benjamina, F. elastica, F. lyrata, F. maclellandii, F. microcarpa, F. pumila, F. triangularis, F. umbellata and F. vaccinioides.*

Here are some more "Did You Know" facts from NGB:

- The ficus genus is one of the largest groups of plants, with species dating back millions of years, some possibly 60 to 80 million years old.
- Many ficus species are keystone species in their ecosystems, providing a crucial food source for various animals.
- Most ficus species are evergreen, however, there are a few deciduous members in nontropical areas.

Ficus plants exhibit various physical characteristics, including aerial roots, waxy leaves, and the production of white or yellow latex. **GP**