

Propagation of Ornamental *Ficus*

Richard A. Criley
Tropical Plant & Soil Sciences
University of Hawaii

Many species of *Ficus* are used in interiorscaping and landscaping. Their growth habits range from prostrate groundcovers to shrubs, trees, and vines. Nearly all are easily propagated by the usual vegetative techniques of cutting, layering, grafting, and micropropagation. Fewer are propagated by seed as pollination requires specialized wasps, but some of those that do seed have become invasive. *Ficus* are suitable subjects for plant propagation classes as many, such as *F. elastica*, *F. rubiginosa*, and *F. benghalensis* can be propagated by single node cuttings as well as by stem cuttings and air layers. Aerial roots are characteristic of some species, which also signal ease of rooting. Many of the selections used in interiorscapes have been tissue-cultured giving rise to diverse forms, some of which are more compact and better branched.



F. maclellandii 'Alii'



F. maclellandii -- landscape



F. benjamina for interiors



Braided fig fad



F. triangularis - variegated



Segmenting stem to find which portion of the stem will root best.

F. triangularis rooted in a tray pot.



F. benjamina - Terminal cutting

F. benghalensis - Two node stem cutting

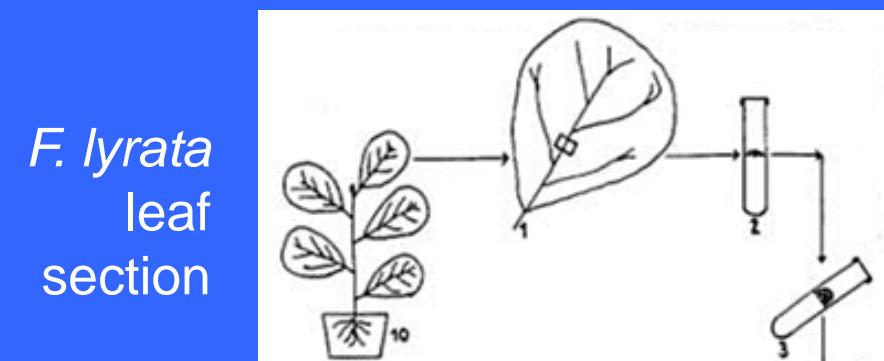


F. elastica - Single node cuttings with whole leaf blade, 2/3 and 1/3 blade. Reduced leaf area reduced extent of rooting after 4 weeks.



Micropropagation was initiated on *Ficus carica* in efforts to produce virus-free plants.

Meristem culture and plantlet production from leaf blade callus have been the principal forms of micropropagation of *Ficus*.



F. lyrata leaf section



Belynde Rinck provided photos of *Ficus* 'Tineke' propagules.

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F. pumila has juvenile and mature growth forms.



Rapid rooting allows use of aluminum foil wraps in air layering.



F. benjamina air layers grown on the island of Hawaii were finished in a nursery on Oahu.

F. benjamina is an easy subject for propagation classes to air layer.



A split Grow Tech plug is easier than sphagnum moss to apply.



Grafting and budding were used for efforts to find suitable rootstocks for *F. carica*. Cutting grafts (stenting) have been used for slow-to-root variegated *F. benjamina*. Bark grafts were used for this compact *Ficus* standard. *Ficus* grafts could be used for plant propagation classes.



F. pseudopalmata *F. montana* ground cover



Ficus benghalensis



Forms of *Ficus elastica*



Ficus religiosa -- Bo tree



Ficus microcarpa as bonsai



F. microcarpa var. *crassifolia*



Ficus have aggressive roots!



F. religiosa has become invasive.