Propagation of Ornamental Ficus

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Many species of Ficus are used in interior landscaping and gardening. 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.

Selected References
Davies, F. T., Jr. and J.N. Joiner. 1978. Adventitious root formation from leaf blade callus have been the prototype forms of micropropagation of Ficus. J. Hortic. Res. 16:199-171.