

## Ficus benjamina

Kingdom: Plantae (Plants)  
Order: Rosales  
Family: Moraceae  
Genus: Ficus  
Species: Ficus benjamina



*Ficus benjamina*, commonly known as the Weeping Fig or Benjamin Fig, is a species of fig tree native to Southeast Asia and Australia. It is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant due to its graceful drooping branches and glossy leaves.

**Common Names** In addition to Weeping Fig and Benjamin Fig, *Ficus benjamina* is also known by other names in different regions, including: Benjamin tree Java Fig Tropical Fig

**Characteristic Features** Leaves: Small, glossy, ovate to elliptical leaves that are typically dark green. The leaves can vary in size and shape depending on the variety. Branches: Drooping, weeping branches that give the tree its characteristic appearance. Fruit: Small, round figs that are typically green when immature and turn purple when ripe. They are not typically consumed by humans but may attract birds.

**Uses Ornamental:** *Ficus benjamina* is widely planted as an ornamental tree both indoors and outdoors in tropical and subtropical climates. It is valued for its graceful form and ability to thrive in a range of light conditions. Indoor Plant: Often used as a houseplant or in offices due to its tolerance of indoor conditions, though it can be sensitive to changes in light and watering. Hedge or Screen: In warmer climates, it can be used as a hedge or screen due to its dense foliage and ability to tolerate pruning.

**Cultivation Climate:** Prefers tropical or subtropical climates but can also be grown indoors in temperate regions. Light: Prefers bright, indirect light indoors but can tolerate some shade. Outdoors, it prefers partial shade to full sun.

**Watering:** Requires regular watering, keeping the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. It is sensitive to drought and dry air.

**Propagation:** Typically propagated from stem cuttings. Maintenance Regular pruning helps maintain its shape and prevent overgrowth. Pruning can also help control its size and shape, especially when grown indoors. Toxicity *Ficus benjamina* contains sap that can be irritating to the skin and may cause allergic reactions in some individuals. It is also toxic to pets if ingested. *Ficus benjamina* is a popular choice for those looking to add a touch of greenery indoors or to their outdoor landscapes due to its aesthetic appeal and relatively low maintenance requirements.