

Controlled-Environment Greenhouse



Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

Newsletter – December 2017

Cultivation of Fig



From the Editor

Fresh fig has a sweet taste. Containing various amino acids and proteinases, it is high in nutritional values and has excellent therapeutic effects. The yield of figs planted in open field is often less than that planted in greenhouses. Planting in greenhouses can reduce the damage from pests and diseases, thus the quality of fruits is guaranteed. In this issue, we share the method of planting fig in greenhouses.



Choosing the Species

Fig is categorised by the characteristics of pollination and fruiting: some do not require pollination; some rely on fig wasps for pollination, while some require pollination for fruiting not in spring but in autumn. For indoor planting, the common fig that does not require pollination should be chosen.



Growth Conditions

Fig prefers warm and dry weather as well as sandy loam with good drainage. The flower bud differentiation of fig does not require a strict low temperature condition. As the branches grow, the plant flowers all year round. In winter (December to February), when the temperature is low (especially during cold spells), the growth of new fig blossoms may be hindered due to low temperature, but damages caused under such circumstances can be avoided if it is planted indoors.



Cultivation Management

Cutting for propagation : Fig is propagated predominantly by cutting. To do so, February is the best time and two-year old mature branches (when the branches turn from green to brown) are the best choice. Take cuttings from the plant, cut them into branches of 15-18 cm in length and insert them diagonally into sandy loam with 2-3 buds exposing above ground.



Irrigation and fertiliser application : Fig is native to dry climate, but it requires a large amount of water especially when it is initially planted. Sufficient water should be given to keep the soil moisturised. Apply organic fertiliser once a month after planting. Fertiliser may be applied more frequently during flowering and fruiting period.



Plant adjustment : Once the saplings grow well, remove the top buds 60-100 cm from the base to stimulate the growth of side branches. After new buds have emerged on the side branches, choose several strong twigs and allow the hedge scaffold to guide so that the twigs grow upwards at 60° into fruiting branches. In addition, the undesirable branches growing from the base or the trunk should be removed as soon as possible during plant adjustment.



Harvesting : It takes approximately 30-45 days from the first fruit appears to the fruits ripen (depending on the species).

Fig fruits grow at the leaf axils of new twigs, i.e. the plant will fruit continuously as the branches grow once the axillary buds are formed from the fourth leaf of the twigs. Fig trees usually become productive in 2-3 years..

AFCD Home Page:
<http://www.afcd.gov.hk>

For more information and visits to greenhouses, please contact:
Horticulture Section, AFCD (Tel: 2679 4294)