

# Ficus Tree

The **Ficus** genus is a fascinating and diverse group of plants, ranging from majestic trees to indoor houseplants. They're known for their resilience, unique growth habits, and symbolic significance.

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## 🌿 Ficus at a Glance:

- **Scientific Name:** *Ficus* spp.
  - **Family:** Moraceae (Mulberry family)
  - **Common Types:** Banyan (*Ficus benghalensis*), Peepal (*Ficus religiosa*), Rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*), Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*), Fig tree (*Ficus carica*)
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## 🌳 Key Characteristics:

- **Leaves:** Simple, glossy or leathery leaves, sometimes with aerial roots
  - **Growth:** Can be large trees, shrubs, vines, or houseplants
  - **Fruits:** Many produce small fig-like fruits, often eaten by birds
  - **Roots:** Some species grow aerial roots or become epiphytes (growing on other trees)
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## 🏠♂ Cultural and Spiritual Significance:

- **Peepal tree** (*Ficus religiosa*) is sacred in Hinduism and Buddhism; believed to be the tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment
  - **Banyan tree** (*Ficus benghalensis*) is the **national tree of India**, symbolizing longevity and immortality
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## 🌿 Ecological Role:

- **Keystone species** in rainforests — their figs are a vital food source for birds, monkeys, and other wildlife
  - Their **canopies support ecosystems**, and some species even improve air quality
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## 🏠 Common Houseplants (Ficus Species):

- **Ficus elastica** (Rubber Plant) – Easy to grow indoors, air-purifying
- **Ficus lyrata** (Fiddle Leaf Fig) – Popular decorative plant
- **Ficus benjamina** (Weeping Fig) – Elegant and leafy with a flowing shape

