



FIDDLE LEAF FIG CARE

The indoor plant that has dominated style and design trends since houseplants became popular is the Fiddle Leaf Fig (*Ficus lyrata*). It features large, glossy green leaves on a substantially sized plant that can reach up to 8+ feet tall. Keeping a Fiddle Leaf Fig happy can seem challenging at first, but once you understand some of its basic needs, your “Fickle Fiddle” can thrive!

LIGHT



Consistently bright or filtered light is best; avoid prolonged direct sun. Place directly in an east-facing window or a few feet away from south or west-facing window. Rotate plant occasionally to keep growth balanced.

PRUNING



Prune to reduce height and promote branching or horizontal growth; best done in spring as plant resumes active growth. Ficus “bleed” a sticky white sap with latex—protect floors/furniture and wear gloves for protection.

WATER



Most Ficus like regularly moist soil, but never soggy; allow top 2–4 inches of soil to dry before watering, then water thoroughly until it flows out drainage holes.

- Too dry is better than watering too much—the most common problems stem from overwatering!
- Adjust watering frequency to different seasons—water almost half as often in winter when growth is less active.
- Plants growing in lower light conditions may require less water than the same plant in brighter light.

PROPAGATION



Propagate fiddle leaf figs through stem cuttings during the active growing season (Mar–Sep).

TOXICITY



All parts of the plant are known to be toxic to humans and pets if ingested. Handling parts of the plant can cause mild skin irritation from contact with sap; be cautious and wear gloves when handling.

TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY



They prefer warmer temps ranging from 60–80°F and higher humidity levels. Ways to boost humidity:

- Humidifier: use a large humidifier for an entire room or a smaller tabletop one to target plants directly
- Misting: use a fine mister; only mist in the morning so water can evaporate throughout the day (can encourage foliage diseases if not done carefully)

Be sure to keep plants away from heating vents, fans, and drafts from windows and doors.

TROUBLESHOOTING



Leaf browning/dropping: Note the location of damaged leaves and the shape, pattern, and color of spots. Fiddle leaf figs can be sensitive to environmental and transplant shock; will most likely drop leaves for first 2–4 weeks in new home. If brown spots develop or dropping continues, it may be caused by one of the following:

- Root rot from overwatering: older leaves (toward inside and lower part of plant) are usually affected first; damage is the dark patch in the center of the leaf or random dark blotches
- Extended drought/underwatering: newest leaves tend to be most affected; leaf damage is on outer edges
- Bacterial infection: worse on new growth; may turn yellow, appear abnormally small, or contain brown/reddish spots
- Insect damage: varies depending on pest; look for unusually shiny or sticky leaves and inspect in more detail

Fungus gnats: Top-dress with *Mosquito Bits* or dust soil with *Diatomaceous Earth* until resolved. For prevention, avoid overwatering; let top 2–3 inches of soil to dry before watering.

Scale: Scale can be difficult to spot, especially in early stages, making them tough to overcome. Look for small, oval-shaped tan bumps along midrib of leaves (top or bottom) or on stem where leaf connects; can be picked off with fingernail or small tool. Regular inspection and frequent foliage cleaning will help you catch problems early and recover plant more quickly.

SOIL



Use a high-quality, rich, well-draining potting soil to keep fiddle leaf figs thriving—they don’t like soggy soil, but they also don’t want their soil to be too dry, either.

FERTILIZER



Feed during active growing season (Mar–Sep) with a basic indoor plant food diluted to half-strength to help maintain lush growth and color. Use *Malibu Compost Houseplant Tea* to reduce stress and/or for transplant shock.