

Tropicals

Ficus In Colorado

Introduction

- Where is ficus natively found?
- Mimicking that environment in Colorado
 - Indoors & Outdoors
 - Light, water/humidity



Four Season Care

- Spring - March thru May
 - Move outdoors when night temperature stays above 50 degrees
- Summer – June thru August
- Fall – September thru November
 - Move indoors when night temperature drops below 50 degrees
 - Need to deal with critters when moving in
- Winter – December thru February



Four Season Care

	Light	Water	Fertilizer	Repotting	Pruning	
Spring	Indoors supplemental	++	++		+	
Summer	Outdoors Not full sun	+++	+++	+	+	
Fall	Indoors supplemental	++	+		+	
Winter	Indoors supplemental	+	+			

Ficus Species

- Benjamina Weeping fig
 - Kiki, Too Little
- Burtt-davyi Veld fig
- Macrophylla Morton Bay fig
- Microcarpa Chinese Banyan fig
 - Retusa (Tiger Bark), Green Island
- Natalensis Strangler fig
- Rubiginosa Rusty or Port Jackson fig

- Salicifolia Narrow leaf fig
 - Ficus 1989

Characteristics of suitable species

- Small leaf
- Aerial roots
- Vigorous branching or back budding
- Adaptable to change

See Ficus The Exotic Bonsai by Jerry Meislik for a complete list of suitable species

Techniques

- Repotting and Soil
 - Soil mix
- Pruning
 - Defoliation
- Propagation
 - Cuttings
 - Air Layering
- Developing Aerial roots
 - Humidity, humidity, humidity
- Grafting
 - When
 - Bonding, Approach graft
 - Through graft
- Wiring

Pests & Disease & Common Problems

- Scale, Spider mites, Fungus gnats, Mealy bugs, Aphids, Thrips, Borers, Whitefly, Fungus
- Non chemical solutions
 - Spray with water, good air circulation, keep clean of debris
- Most chemical remedies work. First test on a small or sacrifice portion of the tree
- Neam oil, Systemic
- Too little light
 - Sparse foliage & branching, large leaves
- Too dry/wet
 - Leaf drop, drooping or discolored leaves
- Insects
 - Mottled or sticky leaves, spider webs, bumps on leaves or branches/trunk

Resources

- FICUS The Exotic Bonsai, Jerry Meislik
 - <http://www.bonsaihunk.us/>
- Adam's Art and Bonsai Blog
 - <https://adamaskwhy.com/>