

Ficus macrophylla

COMMON NAMES

Moreton Bay fig

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

SIMILAR TAXA

Ficus elastica (rubber plant) is often cultivated (mainly indoors in cooler climates). Its leaves have many parallel and equal-sized veins (see photos) extending from the midrib whereas *F. macrophylla* has reticulated (network of) veins, some more prominent than others. Some parks around the world have *F. macrophylla* incorrectly labelled as 'rubber trees'.

HABITAT

Commonly planted ornamental. The seed is bird dispersed and seedlings usually start as epiphytes (so difficult to detect until well-established); as they mature they can overwhelm and kill the supporting tree. Common tree hosts include *Phoenix canariensis*, *Butia* spp., pohutukawa, titoki and plane trees. May also establish on stone walls and old buildings.

GENUS

Ficus

FAMILY

Moraceae

AUTHORITY

Ficus macrophylla Desf. ex Pers.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ORIGIN

Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Cold intolerant

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Long lived tree. Reproduces by seed. Small, long-lived are dispersed by birds and gravity.

ETYMOLOGY

ficus: The Latin name for fig tree, possibly derived from the Hebrew word fag

macrophylla: Big leaf



Immature fruit. Bason Reserve, Wanganui.
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken:
10/04/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Immature fruit. Bason Reserve, Wanganui.
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken:
18/04/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

FICMAC

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Ogle, Colin; Ogle, Robyn (2010): Pollination, fruiting and spread of Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) in New Zealand, with notes on other *Ficus* species *New Zealand Botanical Soc. Newsletter 100*: 9-13

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ficus-macrophylla/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026