



Clifton
NURSERIES

FICUS CARE



FICUS spp.

Origin: Asia. Varieties include benjamina, nitida, deltoidea, elastica and cultivars such as Ficus Starlight, Ficus Reginald and Ficus Golden King.

LIGHT

All Ficus varieties and cultivars require bright light, a general rule being that the more variegation on their leaves, the greater that requirement. They should, however, be protected from the scorching effect of midday summer sun by some form of shading. It is often advisable to turn the plant regularly in order to give equal light to all areas (once a month is enough).



WATER

It is important to water these plants thoroughly, wetting the compost and then allowing the top inch of the compost to dry before repeating the process. Watering should be cut down in winter to avoid the risk of water-logging whilst the plant is resting.



TEMPERATURE

A temperature of between 16°-20° C (61-68°F) is suitable. Any warmer and the plant will be under stress, similarly if the temperature is lower.

FEED

Fertilise with a standard liquid fertiliser during the growing season of March to September. Once a fortnight will suffice.

REPOT

Spring is the time to repot, using a pot the next size up. Top dress the plant in Spring once final pot size has been reached. This will be the size most convenient to the situation of the plant. It may not be necessary to repot every year depending on whether the plant roots have filled the pot.

PROPAGATION

Propagation of specimen Ficus is very difficult and really only possible professionally.

OTHER POINTS

These plants should be kept away from draughts and mist spray with water to increase humidity, particularly in centrally heated premises. It is not uncommon for plants, particularly Ficus benjamina and cultivars, to lose leaves in autumn, which is a result of shorter day length, and plants may lose a quarter of their leaves without causing great concern. Any more defoliation and an expert should be contacted. At this time of year, maximum natural light becomes even more important.