



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Fig or Higuera *Ficus carica*

**THE STORY:** In the late 1600's, Father Kino had begun creating missions in northern Mexico. By 1700 he had reached Magdalena, Sonora, and built a mission just north, in the town of San Ignacio. There, as at his other missions, he planted ornamental and food plants brought over from Europe. Pomegranates, date palms, quince, grapes, and roses were among his introductions. Over the centuries that have passed, the original plantings are gone, but the actual genetic material of many of these plants have been carried forward through the process of rooting cuttings. These fig tree are of archaic types, selected centuries ago. Modern figs are easily distinguished from them.

**DESCRIPTION:** Higuera is a deciduous tree, growing quickly to 12' tall or more by 15' or more wide. Flowering is in late spring and summer, with large, edible figs produced in fall and winter. This particular tree is around 4 years old from a cutting, and produced figs for the last two years. It should grow quickly once planted in the ground.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Specimen, shade, attracting wildlife, fruit production.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Probably hardy to the low 20°F's, although large trees have withstood 15F.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun to light shade (it may grow towards the light if too shaded).



**Watering and feeding:** Moderate to high water use. Feed 2-3 times during the growing season.



**Soil requirements:** Will do best in a well-drained silty soil. Clip any roots that are wrapping around the rootball when planting.



**Pruning:** As needed to shape.