

# Ficus macrophylla

## COMMON NAME

Moreton Bay fig

## FAMILY

Moraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ficus macrophylla* Desf. ex Pers.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## 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.

## 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'.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## ORIGIN

Australia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## TOLERANCES

Cold intolerant

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**macrophylla**: Big leaf

## 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/>



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.