FIGS



Edible fig varieties fall under the following categories:

- 1. persistent (common) figs (used for fresh fig production)
- 2. caducous (Smyrna) figs (used for dried fig production)
- 3. intermediate (San Pedro) figs (non-commercial fresh fig production)
- 4. caprifigs—pollinisers of Smyrna and San Pedro figs (not edible).

Caprifig

Caprifigs are a type of fig tree that produces an inedible fruit. Although they're not useful as fruit producers on their own, caprifigs are indispensable as pollinators of other types of figs. Caprifig flowers produce pollen, and their pollen is transported to the flowers of other fig trees by the fig wasp, a distinct species that lives and breeds inside caprifig flowers. The fig wasps don't breed in the flowers of edible figs, and no other insect is as successful as the fig wasp at pollinating fig trees, so the presence of caprifigs is necessary for successful edible fruit production in fig trees that require pollination.

Smyrna Figs

The Smyrna fig is a type of fig that requires pollination in order to produce fruit. Without proper pollination, the fruits of Smyrna fig trees will drop from the trees before they are fully developed. Some commercial growers place baskets of caprifigs, along with the fig wasps that the small caprifigs are hosting, near their Smyrna fig trees to ensure that pollination will take place.

San Pedro Figs

San Pedro figs also depend on pollination from other trees, but not to the degree that Smyrna figs do. San Pedro figs produce two crops of fruit each season. The first crop (known as the breba crop) grows on old branches, and it develops properly without cross-pollination. Later in the season, the trees produce a second crop of fruit on new growth, but this crop will usually drop from the tree before it matures if pollination hasn't occurred.

Common Figs

Like San Pedro figs, common figs will often produce two crops each season, especially in warmer climates, and at least one of those crops will develop fruit even if the tree isn't pollinated. Some types of common fig will drop their first crop, but the second crop develops parthenocarpically, without fertilization. In other varieties, both crops successfully develop parthenocarpically. Because of their less exacting pollination demands, common figs are the most widely available type of fruit-producing fig trees in the United States, and they are most easily cultivated by the typical homeowner. The most popular varieties include "Celeste," which rarely produces a breba crop, and "Brown Turkey," which produces a small breba crop and a larger main crop. [https://homeguides.sfgate.com/harvest-time-panache-fig-72931.html]

In botany and horticulture, **parthenocarpy** is the natural or artificially induced production of fruit without fertilisation of ovules, which makes the fruit seedless. Stenospermocarpy may also produce apparently seedless fruit, but the seeds are actually aborted while they are still small. [Wikipedia]