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Botanical name:

*Ficus rubiginosa*

Common name:

Port Jackson Fig, Rusty Fig

Origin:

Eastern Australia from southern NSW to Qld. Commonly scattered in rocky sites on dry hills in open forest, grassy areas, rocky sites, and near streams. Coast, ranges, and the eastern edge of the tablelands.

Typical height:

10-15 metres (can grow up to 30 m in natural habitat)

Typical width:

8-18 metres

Growth rate:

Moderate

Typical form:

Rounded, spreading to broad. Dense canopy on stout trunk often buttressed at the base.

Characteristics:

Leaves are thick and tough, upper surface hairless, lower surface brownish or rusty hairy, sometimes becoming almost hairless. Figs usually paired, yellow turning red, usually prominently warty, more or less round, 7–20 mm in diameter, on stalks. The bark remains smooth and is a yellow-brown in colour.

Site requirements:

Prefers relatively fertile, well-drained soil but can adapt to a wide range of soil textures. Tolerant of acid or alkaline soils. Port Jackson Fig has



been successfully grown in urban areas where air pollution, poor drainage, compacted soil, and/or drought are common.

Tolerances:

Notes:

Rusty Fig's dense growth habit and moderate growth rate make it better suited for smaller landscapes than most other Ficus trees.

Requires formative pruning to develop a single trunk and clearances for street use.

