TAGAWA gardens

Creeping Fig

Ficus pumila



Creeping Fig foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 30 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

This variety is a vigorous climber that will scale any porous surface; it will quickly cover surfaces upwards of 50 feet; mature plants adopt a more horizontal habit when they reach upward limits; great for walls, trellises or as container plants

Ornamental Features

Creeping Fig's attractive heart-shaped leaves emerge light green in spring, turning dark green in color the rest of the year on a plant with a spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Creeping Fig is a multi-stemmed annual with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting birds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



Creeping Fig
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Invasive

Creeping Fig is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

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Planting & Growing

Creeping Fig will grow to be about 30 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. As a climbing vine, it should either be planted near a fence, trellis or other landscape structure where it can be trained to grow upwards on it, or allowed to trail off a retaining wall or slope. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America.

Creeping Fig is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

