



Moreton Bay Fig

Ficus macrophylla



Family: Moraceae

Large evergreen tree to 60m



Distribution: East coast of Queensland and New South Wales.

Description: The trunk can be massive, with prominent buttressing, and reach a diameter of 2.4 m. Each tree bears functional male and female flowers. Fruits all year, but especially in summer. Drops aerial roots from its branches, which upon reaching the ground, thicken into supplementary trunks which help to support the weight of its crown.

Propagation: Seed germination usually takes place in the canopy of a host tree and the seedling lives as an epiphyte until its roots establish contact with the ground. It also starts readily from the seed of the fig fruit.

Habitat: Found in subtropical, warm temperate and dry rainforest.

Uses: It has a special relationship with fig wasps - figs are only pollinated by fig wasps, and fig wasps can only reproduce in fig flowers. Provides food for the Grey-headed Flying-fox and the Wompoo Fruit-dove, both endangered species in our region. A useful shade tree for livestock. The fibres were traditionally used for fishing nets.