Hi (whatsyerface),

Your fig is called (variety) and it (is or is not) not a known commercial type. I traded cuttings of fig trees from a guy in (somewheresville) for it. It makes figs that are (whatever color) when ripe and the inside is pink to red. They are refreshingly sweet with a little acidic tang. Some figs are so sweet you could only eat a couple, you could eat a whole bowl of these.(I like to describe the fig they are getting)

In other parts of the country you could just grow this tree in a pot for a year or two and then plant it in the ground in your yard. We get a little too cold for that here, you could actually still do it but it takes extensive winterizing measures which still might not work if it’s a really cold winter. So keep it in a pot with ample drainage holes and bring it into the garage once it drops most or all of its leaves in the fall. Green wood isn’t hardy below freezing, brown wood can probably take the 20’s but fig varieties differ. It should likely drop its leaves and harden-off before freeze temps hit, but if it doesn’t.. bring it in at night. The tree will adapt to our seasons and drop leaves at the right time eventually, most trees figure it by the 2nd fall. In the spring you do the “fig shuffle” when the buds start to break by putting it outside when it is nice and then bring it in when it gets near and below freezing. If it grows a bunch of leaves in the garage without any sun, they will fry when you do put it out. If you keep it inside the house all winter long it will grow long lanky limbs and sparse low quality fruit.

Fig trees like fast draining soil. I like to make my own soil mix, I buy EKO organic potting soil and add more perlite, very small pine bark chips, some dolomite lime, Plant-tone(dry plant food), and kelp meal(I don’t expect people to do this, that is why don’t give any ratios). If you can find a premade fast draining mix it will work, or just add extra perlite to your favorite bagged mix. During the growing season they like to be watered every day when the temps are hot and less often in the spring and fall when it’s cooler, maybe every 2-4 days, it just depends. They like to get a diluted water soluble fertilizer during the growing season as well. It depends on what you use, but ½ to ¼ strength every 3rd watering or once a week should suffice. You’ll figure out what it likes in your yard.

The more sun the better; just make sure the pot isn’t getting cooked on hot or dark surface. I like to cluster other pots with flowers around them so all the pots shade each other to some degree. You can lean things on the pot like pieces of wood or similar to shade the pot a bit as well. Eventually the pot will be big enough that this probably will not be much of an issue. The pot size will need to increase every year until it gets to a point where you call it big enough (somewhere around 20 gallons for me). The 20 inch terra cotta colored plastic pot that Ace hardware sells is about that size. This year your plant should go up to about a 2 or 3 gallon pot. While it is still dormant in late winter you can move it up to pot that is about 5 gallons. Then move it up every late winter until you meet your max. Growing the tree in a pot naturally dwarfs it, so between the pot and pruning techniques you will be able to keep it from getting too big. 4-6 foot tall works for me. Once you reach your biggest pot, you’ll have to root prune in late winter about every three years to maintain plant vitality and fruit production.

About once a month during the winter I put some snow or ice cubes on top of the soil to keep the pot from drying out too much. Drying out the roots too much will kill the tree, of course too much water during the winter will rot the roots which will also and kill the tree, so try keep it in the middle.

Enjoy your tree, if you ever have a question about your tree, feel free to call or email me. If you ever want to send me a pic of the tree as it grows that would be appreciated. It takes a good deal of effort to turn a small stick into a tree, so they are sort of like children and I like to see how they grow. There is a web forum called Figs4fun; it is a great resource of knowledge and you can find the answer to any question you can ever think of if you feel like doing any research on your own. [www.figs4fun.com](http://www.figs4fun.com)

Calvin

You can learn tons about fig tree care and maintenance at [www.figs4fun.com](http://www.figs4fun.com) and [www.gardenweb.com](http://www.gardenweb.com) (garden forums/figs)