

Fig Planting Guide

Helianthus tuberosus

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So, you've got your fig cuttings, now, let's turn those little sticks into thriving fig trees. Here's the details on getting them all set up and growing strong.

First off, a tiny bit of prep work:

- Just after getting these cuttings, give them a little time out to heal. A day or two should do. This step helps the cut end form a callus, which is super important to avoid any nasty rot.
- If you're feeling fancy, dip the bottom end of each cutting in some rooting hormone. It's like giving them a little growth supercharge. Totally optional, but it could boost your success rate.

Now, onto the fun part—rooting those cuttings! You've got a couple of options here:

If you're going the soil route:

- Grab a pot and mix up a light, airy potting mix. Think perlite, vermiculite, peat moss—stuff that lets those roots breathe and stretch out.
- Plant the cuttings a couple of inches deep, keeping at least one bud peeking out above the soil. Moisten the soil gently, like you're misting a delicate pastry.
- Find a cozy spot for them—not too sunny, not too dark—and keep that soil just on the right side of damp. You're aiming for that sweet spot of moist, but not a swamp.

Or, if you prefer the water method:

- Fill a jar halfway with water and pop the cuttings in there, just like you're arranging flowers. Make sure only the bottom part's getting a soak.
- Keep an eye on the water, changing it every few days to keep things fresh and clean.
- In a few weeks, you'll see roots beginning to show. That's your cue they're ready for the next step.

Once those roots are looking sturdy, it's transplant time:

- Wait until the frost has said its final goodbye before moving them outdoors. Choose a sunny spot—figs love the sun more than a cat loves a warm windowsill.

- When planting, think of making a comfy bed for the roots. Nothing too tight, nothing too loose. Water them well to settle them in.

And then, it's all about the TLC:

- Keep them watered, especially during their first summer. Think of them as teenagers—mostly independent but still needing support.
- A bit of fertilizer in spring and mid-summer gives them an extra pep in their step. But don't overdo it; we're nurturing, not force-feeding.
- For many of us, we'll be cutting clear to the ground late each fall and mulching to keep them alive.

And there you have it! With a bit of patience and care, you'll have fig trees that are the envy of the neighborhood.