

Thai Name: Sai, Madeua

Scientific name: *Ficus* species

Family: Moraceae

How to grow saplings from seed?

Cut the figs from trees when they are fully ripe (i.e. when birds and squirrels are eating them).

Open the figs and scrape out the tiny, light brown, fruits, each of which contains a single seed. Drop them into water and discard the non-viable ones (those that float). Spread them out on paper and leave them to dry in the sun for 1–2 days. Sow them sparsely into germination trays, containing a mix of forest soil and sand (50:50). Apply fungicide (Captan) to the soil surface when seeds are sown and again 1 month afterwards. Place germination trays in light shade.

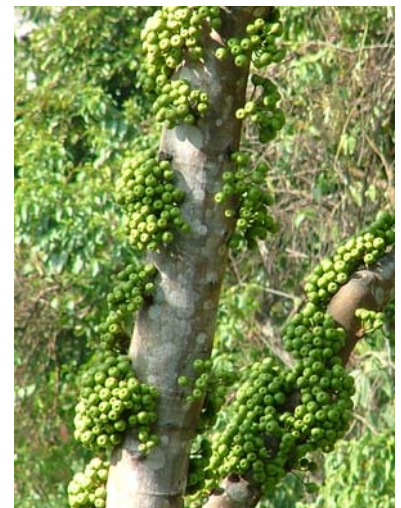
Seedlings of most species need to be grown in trays for 5–10 months before pricking out. After potting up, most will be ready for planting in the 2nd season after germination (the total nursery time is 18–22 months).

How should saplings be planted and cared for?

All *Ficus* species can be planted directly into soil; do not plant onto other trees. Make sure they do not become shaded by other plants. Most species grow well with minimal care.

Uses

Wood from some *Ficus* species can be used for light construction, crates, small household items and firewood. Latex can also be obtained from some species, used in rubber and a substitute for wax in dying batik. Medicinally latex is used to cover wounds. Figs of some species are edible by humans. *Ficus* species, and in particular *Ficus religiosa*, have cultural and religious significance and are unlikely to be felled. **Excellent for stabilising river banks and preventing soil erosion.**



Framework Species Checklist

High Survival	HIGH	👍😊
High Growth	Variable	
Shady Crown	HIGH	👍😊
Resilient to Fire	HIGH	👍😊
Attractive to wildlife	HIGH	👍😊