

Ficus benjamina

Moraceae

India, Malaysia, Indonesia

Common names: **English:** Java fig, weeping fig, Chinese banyan.

Ecology: A native of Asia distributed from India to northern Australia. In Uganda it is grown for shade and as an ornamental. It is often grown in pots as an indoor plant. It needs a humid atmosphere to grow well.

Uses: Firewood, shade, ornamental (avenue tree).

Description: A dense evergreen tree 10-20 m with drooping foliage on slender branches. **BARK:** grey-white-green. **LEAVES:** small and thin, lime green when young, later leathery shiny dark green, narrow oval, 8-10 cm long with a pointed "drip tip", base rounded. **FIGS:** beside leaves, very many, often in pairs, each about 1 cm across, turning from orange to dark red, attracting birds.

Propagation: By aerial layering only.

Seed: In Uganda the tree does not normally produce viable seed.

treatment:

storage:

Management: Fast growing. Pollarding.

Remarks: This tree responds well to pollarding and can supply farmers' fuel needs quickly. Best planted as individual trees rather than as a stand. The roots may damage foundations and sewerage systems if planted too close to buildings. There are several attractive varieties.

