FIGS.FRUITS.IM

A fig in a UK garden

The Royal Horticultural Society's official cool-climate account: two crops, and usually one that ripens.

This is typographic RHS wording, not a California orchard card, and it has no photographs inside.

The official detail	Official wording
Pollination	The seedless fruits "develop without fertilisation (parthenocarpic fruit), so pollination" is not needed for the figs on this grow-your-own page.
A reliable variety	"The best known and most widely available is 'Brown Turkey'," with an Award of Garden Merit. Also listed: LITTLE MISS FIGGY 'Lmf01', a compact container variety with sweet, burgundy-coloured figs; and 'White Marseilles', hardy and reliable with large, sweet, pale green figs.
Where and when to plant	"Figs need a warm, sunny, sheltered spot to crop well." Spring is the ideal time to plant. A pot is useful in cooler regions, so the plant can be moved indoors over winter. Figs are sold as young potted plants in spring and summer.
Two crops	"In the cool UK climate, figs produce two crops a year, but only the first one usually ripens." The first crop forms as pea-size fruitlets at the branch tips in late summer, waits through winter, and ripens the next summer. Those fruitlets are prone to frost, so winter protection is beneficial. The second crop forms on the current season's shoots and rarely ripens outdoors; any fruits larger than a pea are best removed at the end of summer. In a greenhouse kept all year, both crops may ripen in a good summer.
Training	Train as a fan against a warm sunny wall, and prune twice a year (spring and early summer). A fan can be kept to about 1.8m (6ft) tall and 3.5m (11½ft) wide. In colder places, fan-train in a greenhouse with wires 30cm from the glass. Pinching out shoot tips is a key part of summer pruning.

A short quiz

1. How many of the two UK outdoor crops usually ripen?
2. What should you do with second-crop figs larger than a pea at the end of summer?
3. What award does 'Brown Turkey' hold, on this page?

Answers. Only the first, usually. Remove them. An Award of Garden Merit.

Wording from the Royal Horticultural Society, "Figs: grow your own," re-checked 18 November 2026. figs.fruits.im is independent of the RHS and is not a growing service that replaces it. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.