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Does a fig need a wasp?

Four official answers, kept side by side, and not blended into one rule for every fig.

This sheet is typographic only. It has no photographs inside.

Official desk	Official wording
Kew, captured 16 November 2026	The flowers "are very small and contained in a hollow fleshy receptacle that resembles an unripe fig called the synconium." "The synconium has a small opening at the apex that allows a fig wasp (Blastophaga psenes) to enter and pollinate the flowers within." "The edible fruit consists of the mature syconium containing numerous one-seeded fruits." The same page uses both spellings.
RHS, re-checked 18 November 2026	The seedless fruits "develop without fertilisation (parthenocarpic fruit), so pollination" is not needed for the UK garden figs on that grow-your-own page. 'Brown Turkey' is the best-known and most widely available variety, with an Award of Garden Merit. The page does not mention a fig wasp.
UC Master Gardeners of San Luis Obispo County	Hundreds of varieties are classified into four types: Caprifig, Smyrna, San Pedro and Common. "Smyrna and San Pedro types require pollination to produce edible fruits; Caprifig type is solely used as a pollinator tree. Common type does not require pollination." Brown Turkey is listed among Common types for that county.
UCCE talk, 2026, saved 16 November 2026	Smyrna "requires pollination to set any fruit." Later, the same talk says "Wasp pollination is obsolete in California production systems." That official sentence is a note about current orchards, not a claim that Smyrna-type figs no longer need pollination.

A short quiz

1. What official name does Kew give the fig wasp?
2. Do UK garden figs, on the RHS page, need pollination?
3. Which UC type does not require pollination?

Answers. Blastophaga psenes. No — they are described as parthenocarpic. Common.

Wording from Kew (captured 16 November 2026; live page HTTP 403 on 18 November 2026), the RHS (re-checked 18 November 2026), UC Master Gardeners of San Luis Obispo County, and a 2026 UCCE talk by Phoebe Gordon (PDF copy saved 16 November 2026). figs.fruits.im is independent of those institutions. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.