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Four types of fig

A University of California horticultural list, kept beside — and not instead of — a UK garden that may need none of the wasp work.

Official wording only. No photographs inside.

Type	Official wording
Caprifig	San Luis Obispo: “for pollination only.” Figs from caprifigs are “small, dry, nonedible fruit.” A fig wasp (Blastophaga) lives part of its life cycle in a caprifig and carries pollen to other trees. The 2026 UCCE talk: “mostly inedible,” “functionally male,” and “where the fig wasp completes its life cycle.” Caprifigs have three crops; the second (profichi) coincides with when the main crop needs to be pollinated.
Smyrna	San Luis Obispo: “requires pollination, no breba crop,” and “considered among the best for eating and drying.” The cultivar most commonly grown there is Calimyrna. UCCE 2026: “requires pollination to set any fruit; bears no breba/first crop.”
San Pedro	San Luis Obispo: “requires pollination for main crop. May have a breba crop which does not require pollination.” California cultivars named: King (Desert King), Lampeira, and San Pedro. UCCE 2026: no pollination for the breba; pollination required for the main crop.
Common / Persistent	San Luis Obispo: “no pollination required,” and the type “most common type found in the home garden.” It may have a breba, depending on the cultivar. County list: Adriatic, Black Mission, Brown Turkey, Celeste, Flanders, Italian Everbearing, Osborn’s Prolific, Violette de Bordeaux, White Genoa. UCCE 2026: “does not require pollination for either crop, does not always produce breba.”

A short quiz

1. Which type is for pollination only?
2. Which type has no breba crop and needs pollination to set any fruit?
3. Is Brown Turkey on the San Luis Obispo Common list?

Answers. Caprifig. Smyrna. Yes.

Wording from UC Master Gardeners of San Luis Obispo County, Figs (saved 16 November 2026), and Phoebe Gordon, Fig botany, biology, production, UCCE, 2026 (PDF copy saved 16 November 2026). A live public URL for the talk was not re-opened. figs.fruits.im is independent of the University of California. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.