



INDOOR PLANTS

Rubber Plant

Rubber Plant (*Ficus elastica*)

Ficus elastica commonly known as the Rubber Plant belongs to the ficus family. They form an upright bushy shrub that can get 1 to 2 m high with time.

They have thick fleshy leaves that come in a range of colours and variegations. They have been a popular indoor plant for many years, requiring very minimal maintenance. Common varieties found include Burgundy, Decora, Ruby, Tineke, and shrivereana.

Care:

Ficus grow well both indoors and outside, if grown outside, place in a sheltered spot away from the afternoon sun. If growing indoors pick a well-lit spot away from drafts and with a bit of room. They grow best in pots, using a well-draining potting mix.

When repotting it is always best to pot up one size, this can be done every couple of years. They require very little water, only water when the top half of the soil in the pot becomes dry. To promote a bushier plant simply pinch out the growing tips. Ficus plants have a milky latex sap which can be irritating.

Try to avoid contact with sap by wearing gloves when handling and washing hands after. To keep the leaves looking bright and shiny use a damp cloth to wipe them down every couple of weeks, when cleaning them use a supporting hand underneath the leaf to prevent the leaf from breaking.