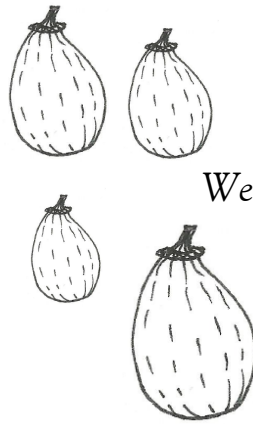


Renfrow Hardware

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Figs

We at Renfrow's believe that every backyard should have one or two fig bushes.

Figs are healthy foods and due to their extremely perishable nature, supermarkets cannot come close to supplying a quality product, if they even offer fresh figs at all.

Figs are delicious fresh, but with abundant harvests you will want to find ways to preserve them, or just leave them for the birds. Figs can be dried or made into delicious preserves or jam.

Variety Selection: We carry a few different varieties at Renfrow's each year. The best time to plant figs is in the fall, after our yearly fruit plant delivery arrives in October. Our most popular bushes are the brown-fruited Celeste and Brown Turkey varieties.

Site Selection: Figs like to be grown on the sunny side of a wall or fence or shed to give them a little bit of cold protection. They grow in any soil and rarely need any fertilizer or irrigation.

Pruning & Care: They can be pruned to any size, but usually keeping them 10 feet tall or shorter makes harvesting without a ladder simpler. Every few years you can cut out the biggest trunks to let new vigorous sprouts come up. The bush can reach 8-10 feet in diameter in a couple of years. Figs have no pest problems other than the occasional bird peck. They have no disease issues of note. Occasionally we will have a very cold winter in the Charlotte area that will kill your figs back to the ground. But do not worry - they will almost always sprout again from the roots. In mid-spring, when it is obvious what portions of the plant are dead and which are recovering, you may prune out the dead limbs. All leaves fall off in the winter but the trunks are attractive. It ultimately depends on the variety, but you will often get two crops off of your bush each year - summer and fall.

If **birds** are a problem in your garden, we carry a large, lightweight square of **netting** that can be thrown over the bush.

Figs are sweetest in hot, dry summers. Cool, rainy seasons will often negatively affect your yields as many will rot before ripening when wet, so *make jam while the sun shines!* Harvest figs multiple times each week when they are in season and eat within 2-3 days, storing them in the fridge. There are few things in nature as sweet as a fresh-picked fig!