

Ficus pumila 'Quercifolia' Care Sheet

Common Name: Creeping Fig, Oak-Leaved Ficus

Scientific Name: *Ficus pumila* 'Quercifolia'

Family: Moraceae

Light Requirements

- Bright, indirect light is ideal, though it can tolerate some direct sunlight.
- It can adapt to low light conditions, but growth may slow down and the leaves may become smaller.

Watering

- Keep the soil moist but not soggy.
- Water when the top 1-2 inches of soil feels dry to the touch.
- Ensure the pot has good drainage to avoid root rot.
- Reduce watering during the winter months when the plant is not actively growing.

Temperature and Humidity

- Prefers warm temperatures between 60°F (15°C) and 80°F (27°C).
- Avoid temperatures below 50°F (10°C) as it can damage the plant.
- Thrives in high humidity, but it can tolerate average levels.
- Misting the plant or placing it near a humidifier can help with humidity, especially in dry climates or winter.

Soil

- Prefers a well-draining, light, and slightly acidic soil mix.
- A general-purpose potting mix with added perlite or sand works well for drainage.

Pruning

- Regular pruning helps keep the plant in check and encourages bushier growth.
- Trim back long vines to maintain its shape and size.
- Cut back leggy growth in spring to promote new shoots.

Repotting

- Repot when the plant outgrows its container, typically every 1-2 years.
- Choose a pot 1-2 inches larger in diameter than the current one to allow for growth.

Propagation

- *Ficus pumila* 'Quercifolia' can be propagated by stem cuttings.
- Take a 4-6 inch cutting with a few leaves and place it in water or a moist potting mix.
- Roots should develop within a few weeks, after which the cutting can be potted up.

Common Pests/Diseases

- Spider mites, mealybugs, and aphids can sometimes infest the plant.
- Keep an eye out for yellowing leaves or sticky residue, which may indicate pests.
- Treat with insecticidal soap or neem oil if pests are noticed.
- Ensure proper air circulation to avoid fungal infections or mold, especially in high-humidity environments.

Toxicity

- *Ficus pumila* 'Quercifolia' is considered toxic to pets (cats and dogs) if ingested, causing mild to moderate symptoms like drooling or stomach upset.

This plant is an excellent option for both indoor and outdoor spaces, especially if you're looking for a vine-like plant to grow on trellises, walls, or hanging baskets. It also looks lovely in containers and as a ground cover in warmer climates. Just be mindful of its potential to spread, and regular care will ensure it thrives!

